

Ordinary Council Meeting

Business Paper

Pursuant to section 9 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Council Meeting of Parkes Shire Council will be held in the Parkes Council Chamber, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes, on Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 3:00 PM.



Kent Boyd PSM
GENERAL MANAGER

Governing Body

Composition:	Ten (10) Councillors
Membership:	Councillor WP Jayet, Councillor KM McGrath, Councillor LA O'Leary, Councillor J Paddison, Councillor DJA Pout, Councillor GW Pratt, Councillor MK Scherer, Councillor GS Wilson
Quorum:	6 Councillors
Chairperson:	Chairperson, Councillor NC Westcott
Deputy Chairperson:	Deputy Chair, Councillor MA Applebee

Pursuant to section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the role of Parkes Shire Council's governing body is:

- To direct and control the affairs of Parkes Shire Council in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, in consultation with the General Manager.
- To provide effective civic leadership to the local community.
- To ensure as far as practicable the financial sustainability of the Council.
- To ensure as far as practicable that the Council acts in accordance with the principles set out in Chapter 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and other strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the Council.
- To determine and adopt a rating and revenue policy and Operational Plans that support the optimal allocation of the Council's resources to implement the strategic plans (including the Community Strategic Plan) of the Council and for the benefit of the local area.
- To keep under review the performance of the Council, including service delivery.
- To make decisions necessary for the proper exercise of the Council's regulatory functions.
- To determine the process for appointment of the General Manager by the Council and to monitor the General Manager's performance.
- To determine the senior staff positions within the organisation structure of the Council, following consultation with the General Manager.
- To consult regularly with community organisations and other key stakeholders and keep them informed of the Council's decisions and activities.
- To be responsible for ensuring that the Council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately.

Matters determined by meetings of Parkes Shire Council's governing body will include all those non-delegable functions identified in section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council Chambers

Seating Plan



PUBLIC GALLERY

Guiding Principles

In accordance with section 8A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Councillors are reminded of the guiding principles applicable to decision-making by local councils:

Councils should recognise diverse local community needs and interests.

Councils should consider social justice principles.

Councils should consider the long-term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.

Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

Council decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

Statement of Ethical Obligations

In accordance with clause 3.22 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Oath or Affirmation of Office

The Oath or Affirmation is taken by each Councillor whereby they swear or declare to undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Parkes Shire and Parkes Shire Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the *Local Government Act 1993* or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

Conflicts of Interest

All Councillors must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at Council meetings in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with Council's Code of Conduct. Where a Councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the Councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting will be suspended or terminated for the time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by Council, or at any time during which Council is voting on the matter.

Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of Council's Code of Conduct in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

In the spirit of open, accessible and transparent government, meetings of Parkes Shire Council are video recorded and webcast, consistent with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council accepts no liability for any defamatory, discriminatory or offensive remarks or gestures made during the course of meetings. Opinions expressed or statements made by individual participants are the opinions or statements of those individuals, and do not imply any form of endorsement by Council.

Closed sessions of Council meetings are not video recorded or webcast.

Recordings and webcasts are protected by copyright and owned by Council, and published to Council's website. No part may be copied, recorded, reproduced or transmitted without the prior written consent of the General Manager. Any recording or webcast is not, and shall not, be taken to be an official record of Council or discussion depicted therein. Only the official minutes may be relied upon as an official record of the meeting.

Authorised media representatives are permitted to record meetings provided written notice has been lodged. A person may be expelled from a meeting for recording without notice. Recordings may only be used for the purpose of accuracy of reporting and are not for broadcast, or to be shared publicly. No recordings of any private third-party conversations or comments of anyone within the Chamber are permitted.

Please ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices are turned off or are in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

Under Council's Code of Meeting Practice, individuals acting in a disorderly manner can be asked by the Chairperson to leave the meeting.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri People who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal peoples from other nations who are present.

3 PRAYER

4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

In accordance with clauses 5.3, 5.5 and 5.7 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, apologies must be received and accepted from absent Councillors and a leave of absence from the Council Meeting may be granted.

5 APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

In accordance with clauses 5.19 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors may attend and participate in meetings by audio-visual link with the approval of the Council where they are prevented from attending the meeting in person because of ill-health or other medical reasons or because of unforeseen caring responsibilities.

Requests by Councillors for approval to attend a meeting by audio-visual link must be made in writing to the General Manager prior to the meeting in question and provide reasons why the Councillor will be prevented from attending the meeting in person.

Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link are reminded that they must ensure that no other person is within sight or hearing of the meeting at any time that the meeting is closed to the public under section 10A of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Note: Consistent with clause 5.45 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, attendance by Council staff at meetings of the Council by audio-visual link shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**6.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2026****IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.**Strategy:** Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.**Annexures:** **A. Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - 20 January 2026****RECOMMENDATION**

That Ordinary Council Meeting:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20 January 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.

Ordinary Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday 20 January 2026

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 at the
Parkes Council Chamber, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes

Present:

Cr Neil Westcott	Councillor (Chairperson)
Cr Marg Applebee	Councillor (Deputy Chair)
Cr William Jayet	Councillor
Cr Ken McGrath	Councillor
Cr Louise O'Leary	Councillor
Cr Joy Paddison	Councillor
Cr Doug Pout	Councillor
Cr George Pratt	Councillor
Cr Matthew Scherer	Councillor
Cr Glenn Wilson	Councillor

Council Officers in Attendance:

Mr Kent Boyd PSM	General Manager
Mr Bikash Paudel	Acting Director Infrastructure and Sustainability
Mrs Sharon Ross	Acting Director Operations
Mrs Annalise Teale	Director Planning and Community Services
Mr Jaco Barnard	Chief Financial Officer
Mrs Veronica Shaw	Manager Governance, Risk and Corporate Performance
Mrs Toni Lennane	Executive and Councillor Support Coordinator (Minute Secretary)

NOTES

The meeting commenced at 3:01 pm and concluded at 4:48 pm.

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Council Meeting of Tuesday 20 January 2026 open and welcomed Councillors, Council Officers and members of the public attending and listening to the meeting.

The Mayor advised attendees that the meeting was being recorded and streamed live on the internet, to enhance the accessibility of Council meetings to the broader Parkes Shire community, and that the recording will be archived and made available on Council's website.

The Mayor asked that attendees ensure that mobile phones and other electronic devices were turned off or in silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

The Mayor further advised that all care would be taken to maintain privacy, however, as a visitor in the public gallery, members of the public should be aware that their presence may be recorded.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Wiradjuri Country and recognises and respects their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the lands and rivers of the Parkes Shire.

Council pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extends this respect to all First Nations peoples in the Parkes Shire.

3 PRAYER

The General Manager read the Prayer:

O God,
Direct the way of our words and works,
In accordance with Thy Will,
We Pray through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

AMEN

4 APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND BY AUDIO-VISUAL LINK

Nil

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2025

RESOLVED OCM 001/26

Moved: Cr William Jayet

Seconded: Cr George Pratt

That Ordinary Council Meeting receive and confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16 December 2025 appended at *Annexure A*.

CARRIED

7 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

The Mayor reminded Councillors and Council Officers of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting, and invited Councillors and Council Officers to disclose any such interests.

General Manager Kent Boyd disclosed a significant non-pecuniary interest in relation to item 17.3 Fire Response Restoration (Kadina Road, Alectown) - Community Request and chose to leave the meeting and therefore not participate in debate and discussion on the matter, nor vote on the matter. The reason provided was:

"The matter relates to restoration after a bushfire. A bushfire occurred on my property. Any precedent set by resolution to Item 17.3 may have implications to the Bindogundra Fire event.."

8 URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor advised that the following late urgent items of business had been submitted by Council Officers, and invited a motion to enable the addition of the late items to the meeting agenda.

Confidential matters:

1. **19.2 - Regional Resilience Program (RRP) – Scope changes & Approval of Additional Funding.**
2. **19.3 – Notice of Motion by Cr Doug Pout - Doctor Retention and Attraction**

8.1 URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED OCM 002/26

Moved: Cr Joy Paddison

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Council:

1. Accept the urgent Confidential report 19.2 – Regional Resilience Program (RRP) – Scope changes & Approval of Additional Funding on the basis that this Project needs to be commenced as soon as possible but needs Council's approval for the amendment.
2. Accept the urgent Confidential report 19.3 – Notice of Motion by Cr Doug Pout – Doctor Retention and Attraction on the basis that the Term of the Lease is due to expire and the request needs to be dealt with prior to the next Council meeting on 17 February 2025.

CARRIED

At 3:06 pm Cr Wilson joined the meeting.

9 ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business, as recommended in the report, byway of a single resolution. The Chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the Chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the Business Paper, or that they wish to speak on (13.2).

9.1 ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS**RESOLVED OCM 003/26**

Moved: Cr George Pratt

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Council adopt the recommendations as listed in the Agenda for the following items and that the order of business be adjusted accordingly:

10.2 Meetings, Functions and Events Attended by Mayor and Councillors.

15.2 Request to use Peak Hill Town Improvement Funds to purchase a shipping container for storage at Lindner Oval.

17.2 Waiving of Landing Fees for RA Aus Event at Parkes Regional Airport 27-29 March 2026.

18.1 (DCPS) Quarterly Rangers Report October to December 2025.

18.2 December 2025 Building Statistics Update.

CARRIED

At 3:10 pm Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee joined the meeting.

10 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)**10.1 PARKES ELVIS FESTIVAL 2026****RESOLVED OCM 004/26**

Moved: Cr William Jayet

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information about the 2026 Parkes Elvis Festival.

CARRIED**10.2 MEETINGS, FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS****RESOLVED OCM 005/26**

Moved: Cr George Pratt

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Council:

1. Note the report on the Meetings functions and events attended in an official capacity, by the Mayor and Councillors during the period 13 December 2025 through to 15 January 2026.

CARRIED

10.3 COMING KNOWN EVENTS FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**RESOLVED OCM 006/26**

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr George Pratt

That Council:

1. Note the known upcoming meetings, functions and events for the Mayor and Councillors for the period 18 January 2026 through to 17 February 2026:

CARRIED**11 NOTICES OF MOTION/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

12 COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)

Nil

13 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

14 REPORTS OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**14.1 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025****RESOLVED OCM 007/26**

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Council:

1. Receive and note the year-to-date financial reports for the period up to 31 December 2025.

CARRIED**14.2 INVESTMENTS AND BORROWINGS REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025****RESOLVED OCM 008/26**

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Statement of Investments and Borrowings as on 31 December 2025.

CARRIED

15 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMY**15.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES & ECONOMY - DECEMBER 2025****RESOLVED OCM 009/26**

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr George Pratt

That Council:

1. Receive and note the status report of Major Projects within Parkes Shire Council's Customer, Corporate Services and Economy Directorate.

CARRIED**15.2 REQUEST TO USE PEAK HILL TOWN IMPROVEMENT FUNDS TO PURCHASE A SHIPPING CONTAINER FOR STORAGE AT LINDNER OVAL.****RESOLVED OCM 010/26**

Moved: Cr George Pratt

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Council:

1. Approve the allocation of up to \$5,000 from the Peak Hill Town Improvement Fund Reserve towards the cost to supply and installation of a storage container at Lindner Oval.

CARRIED

15.3 PURPLE FLAG AND SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT PRECINT ACCREDITATION**RESOLVED OCM 011/26**

Moved: Cr William Jayet

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Council:

1. Endorses the establishment of a **Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP)** within the Parkes CBD, covering the same boundary as the Community Improvement District (CID), focused on Clarinda Street and Cooke Park, bounded by Bogan Road (west), Mitchell Street (north), Jansen Lane (east), and southern streets including Grenfell, Lachlan, May, and Clarinda Streets near the railway station.
2. Commits to establishing a **Special Entertainment Precinct Working Group (PWG)**, comprising core Council staff from Economic Development and Events, overseen by the Director Customer, Corporate Services & Economy, with flexibility to include relevant stakeholders (e.g., hospitality, retail, community representatives) as required.
3. Commits to **investigating Purple Flag accreditation** for the same boundary as the SEP to embed principles of safety, diversity and excellence in night-time precinct management.
4. Ask Essential Energy to maintain and conduct an audit in town regarding the lighting and a report to come back to Council.

CARRIED**16 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY****16.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - INFRASTRUCTURE & SUSTAINABILITY - DECEMBER 2025****RESOLVED OCM 012/26**

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Louise O'Leary

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Infrastructure and Sustainability Major Projects and Current Works Report for December 2025, appended at *Annexure A*.

CARRIED

17 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OPERATIONS**17.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - OPERATIONS - DECEMBER 2025****RESOLVED OCM 013/26**

Moved: Cr Doug Pout
Seconded: Cr Marg Applebee

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Operations Major Projects and Current Works Report for December 2025, appended at *Annexure A*.

CARRIED**17.2 WAIVING OF LANDING FEES FOR RA AUS EVENT AT PARKES REGIONAL AIRPORT 27-29 MARCH 2026****RESOLVED OCM 014/26**

Moved: Cr George Pratt
Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That:

1. Council endorse the RA Aus Fly'n For Fun Weekend to be held on 27-29 March 2026 at Parkes Regional Airport subject to provision of appropriate insurances and approvals.
2. Council waive landing fees for all aircraft under 2 tonnes for the duration of the RA Aus Fly'n For Fun weekend of 27-29 March 2026.

CARRIED

At 3:44 pm, Mayor Neil Westcott and Kent Boyd left the meeting due to a declared interest. Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee stood in as the Chair while the Mayor was out of the room.

17.3 FIRE RESPONSE RESTORATION (KADINA ROAD, ALECTOWN) - COMMUNITY REQUEST**RESOLVED OCM 015/26**

Moved: Cr William Jayet
Seconded: Cr Joy Paddison

That:

1. Council note advice from the NSW Rural Fire Service confirming that post-fire remedial (reinstatement works) works are not eligible for funding under Section 44 arrangements and, if undertaken, would need to be considered through Council's 2025/26 Roads Maintenance budget; and
2. Council determines if the requested reinstatement works be undertaken on an ex-gratia basis, subject to cost and potential precedent.

CARRIED

At 3:49 pm, Cr Neil Westcott and Kent Boyd rejoined the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee stood down as the Chair now that the Mayor rejoined the meeting.

**17.4 PART ROAD CLOSURE AND SALE TO ADJOINING OWNER - LISTER LANE,
BOGAN GATE****RESOLVED OCM 016/26**

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr William Jayet

That:

1. Council endorses the partial closure of Council road, Lister Lane off Station Street, adjacent to Lot 2 DP 312345, Lot 1 DP 796911 and Lot 10 DP 667653.
2. Council approves the sale of the land to the applicant and that the General Manager and Director Operations be authorised to negotiate purchase price for the subject land.
3. All costs associated with the road closure and sale be borne by the Applicant.
4. That the seal of Council be affixed to relevant documentation if required.

In Favour: Crs Neil Westcott, Marg Applebee, William Jayet, Ken McGrath, Louise O'Leary, Joy Paddison, Doug Pout and George Pratt

Against: Nil

Abstained: Crs Matthew Scherer and Glenn Wilson

CARRIED 8/0

18 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**18.1 (DCPS) QUARTERLY RANGERS REPORT OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025****RESOLVED OCM 017/26**

Moved: Cr George Pratt

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That:

1. The report be noted.

CARRIED

18.2 DECEMBER 2025 BUILDING STATISTICS UPDATE**RESOLVED OCM 018/26**

Moved: Cr George Pratt

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Council:

1. Receive and note the December 2025 Building Statistics Report.

CARRIED**19 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS****RESOLVED OCM 019/26**

Moved: Cr Doug Pout

Seconded: Cr Ken McGrath

That Ordinary Council Meeting:

1. Moves into Closed Session to deal with the matters below, which are classified as confidential under section 10A(2) of *the Local Government Act 1993* for the reasons specified:

19.1 PURCHASE OF GROUND WATER ACCESS LICENCE

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

19.2 REGIONAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM (RRP) - SCOPE CHANGES & APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

19.3 DOCTOR RETENTION AND ATTRACTION

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - b of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with discussion in relation to the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer.

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

2. Exclude the media and public from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified as confidential, pursuant to 10A(1), 10(2) and 10A(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
3. Withhold reports and correspondence relevant to the subject business be withheld from the media and public as provided by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
4. Make public resolutions made by the Council in Closed Session after the conclusion of the Closed Session, and record such resolutions in the minutes of the Council meeting.

CARRIED

At 4:02 pm, the Meeting went into Closed Session.

19.1 PURCHASE OF GROUND WATER ACCESS LICENCE

RESOLVED OCM 020/26

Moved: Cr George Pratt

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Council:

1. Note the information contained in the report;
2. Resolve to purchase the ground water access licence in accordance with this report and appropriate due diligence checks;
3. Resolve that the necessary documentation to facilitate the purchase and transfer of the water access licence be signed under the seal of Council as required.

CARRIED

19.2 REGIONAL RESILIENCE PROGRAM (RRP) - SCOPE CHANGES & APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING**RESOLVED OCM 021/26**

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Joy Paddison

That:

1. Notes the contractor's proposal to increase tank capacity at the New Eugowra Road Pump Station (NERPS) and the Akuna Road Pump Station (ARPS) from one (1) ML to two (2) ML.
2. Acknowledges the long-term financial benefit of proceeding with the proposal, with estimated savings exceeding \$1 million across both sites.
3. Approves the scope change from one (1) ML to two (2) ML reservoirs, for the proposed cost of \$840,000.
4. Delegates authority to the General Manager (or relevant Director) to finalise contract variations and proceed with the works.

CARRIED**19.3 DOCTOR RETENTION AND ATTRACTION****RESOLVED OCM 022/26**

Moved: Cr Doug Pout

Seconded: Cr Joy Paddison

That Council:

1. Acknowledge that Parkes has an ongoing shortage of GPs and that supporting the doctors and practices already here is essential if we want to keep them in town and attract new ones.
2. Note that many regional Councils in NSW already help doctors get established through things like subsidised rent, subsidised accommodation, establishment support and other practical incentives.
3. That the rent on 31 Dalton Street surgery be maintained at the current amount for 12 months after which it can be reviewed, reduced rent not to exceed 3 years.

CARRIED

At 4:45 pm, the Council in Closed Session returned to Open Session.

RESOLVED OCM 023/26

Moved: Cr Marg Applebee

Seconded: Cr Doug Pout

That Ordinary Council Meeting:

1. Resume in Open Session and note the Mayor's report on Confidential Resolutions.

CARRIED

20 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

21 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 4:48 pm.

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 18 pages numbered 1 to 18 of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 January 2026 and confirmed on Tuesday, 17 February 2026.



MAYOR

7 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

In accordance with Part 16 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, all Councillors must disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting.

Council's Code of Conduct deals with pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interest and political donations, and provides guidance on how these issues should be managed.

Councillors, and where applicable, other Council Officials, must be familiar with Council's Code of Conduct and their obligations to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest that they may have in matters being considered at this Council Meeting.

Note: Councillors and staff who declare an Interest at the Council Meeting are also required to complete a Declaration of Interest form.

Obligations	
Pecuniary Interests	<p>A Councillor who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the Council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the Council at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting.</p> <p>The Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) At any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed, or (b) At any time during which the Council is voting on any question in relation to the matter.
Non-Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest	<p>A Councillor who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter, must disclose the relevant private interest in relation to the matter fully and on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to the matter.</p>
Significant Non-Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest	<p>A Councillor who has a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in relation to a matter under consideration at a Council meeting, must manage the conflict of interest as if they had a pecuniary interest in the matter.</p>
Less than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests	<p>A Councillor who determines that they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is not significant and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest must also explain why conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.</p>

8 URGENT BUSINESS**9 ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

The Council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items of business, as recommended in the report, byway of a single resolution. The Chairperson must list the items of business to be adopted and ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business listed by the Chairperson that they intend to vote against the recommendation made in the Business Paper, or that they wish to speak on (13.2).

10 MAYORAL MINUTE(S)**10.1 PARKES ENERGY FROM WASTE PROJECT****IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.**Author:** **Cr Neil Westcott****Annexures:** **A. Hon Chris Minns Premier - Requests re EfW** [↓](#)
B. Hon Paul Scully MP - Call-in Advice [↓](#)**MOTION**

That Council:

1. Receive and note the report
2. Formally object to the proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct to:
 - enable the matter to be referred to the Independent Planning Commission for assessment under the established statutory process, and
 - ensure that the community's concerns are formally represented in the absence of comprehensive Government-supported information.
3. Reiterates its request to the Minister for Planning, that the proposal be called-in as a State Significant Development (SSD) and be referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) at the earliest possible stage, given Council's objection, the scale, complexity, and public interest associated with the project.
4. Requests the NSW Government establish a coordinated, whole-of-government engagement process to provide clear, evidence-based information to the Parkes community regarding the proposal.
5. Maintain constructive engagement with both the proponent and the NSW Government, to ensure the communities interest are represented.
6. Continues to advocate for the introduction of a community-hosting-levy (similar to the NSW governments existing landfill waste levy), indexed annually, collected at the point of waste generation and directed to hosting communities.
7. Seeks to negotiate a Voluntary Planning Agreement with the applicant.
8. Authorise the General Manager to negotiate, prepare and submit all necessary correspondence, representations, and documentation to reflect Council's position and the issues outlined in this report.

PURPOSE

On the 30th of March last year, following the State Government Launch of the proponent to build an Energy from Waste Facility at the Parkes SAP, I wrote an open letter to the people of the Parkes Shire. In that letter I spoke of our commitment as a Council, and myself personally, to place safety of the environment and human health above all else as we sought to understand the risks and opportunity this development represented.

Today, almost 11 months on from that commitment, and in the absence of State Government assurances on health that is so important for community confidence, I ask Council to unanimously support a motion to formally object to this proposal to build an Energy from Waste facility in our Shire.

I note that in passing this motion the responsibility of demanding this proposal to proceed directly to the Independent Planning Commission will now be lifted from residents along with the need to provide 50 unique individual letters of objection.

Whether the EfW facility goes ahead or not remains a decision of the NSW State Government. We await the outcome of the Parliamentary Inquiry and the influence that it may have in support (or otherwise) of the community sentiment, State member opposition and Councils motion today.

This is not a passive or token position we are taking. We are asking in the strongest possible terms that the NSW Government look elsewhere (I would suggest the Sydney Basin) for its first EfW facility. Frankly we have been made to feel like second class citizens in this whole process!

Even as we oppose this facility, we know that our political influence is not strong when compared to the voting block east of the Blue Mountains. It will be important, no matter what the outcome is, that the best interests of our town and Shire are strongly articulated as a Council and through our General Manager and Directors. We all have a responsibility to firstly object but to also make sure that we are recognised as a community of great worth and value and that the wellbeing of our people and the land on which we live is our priority.

Background

The encouragement of EfW into NSW by government was announced as part of a NSW Government-led strategy to address the State's waste challenges. Parkes was identified as one of four permissible locations for EfW infrastructure under the NSW EfW Policy and Infrastructure Plan. The proponent, Parkes Energy Recovery (PER), was then selected through a government-managed process, and the proposed site is on government-owned land.

The proponent, PER, has been engaging and respectful, they are the innocent respondents to a State Government tender. They have opened an office in our town, had a stall at the local show, presented to business and made efforts to engage. They openly offer to consult with any individual or group interested. But no matter how honourable their intentions, they are the proponents of this project, and they will always be seen by the community through that lens.

At this point, the proposal remains in its formative stages. No Environmental Impact Statement has been submitted, nor have the detailed technical assessments required to properly evaluate the project been undertaken. Council has, until now, maintained a neutral position, consistently advocating for transparency, independent expert analysis, and genuine, government-led community engagement. However, in light of the circumstances outlined above, and the continued absence of clear and coordinated government support, maintaining that position is no longer tenable.

Report

As indicated above, this report recommends that Council adopt a position of objection, thereby enabling referral to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) and that a public meeting be held by the IPC.

Council has now been lobbying the NSW Government for years to work with the Parkes community on the EfW project, but despite correspondence and depositions, we have been largely ignored. The most recent request for such support was to the Premier of NSW, which is attached, and had six (6) very basic requests.

1. Independent, peer-reviewed scientific assurance that the proposed facility is safe for people, environment and agriculture.
2. Referral of the project to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) from the outset.
3. A whole-of-government taskforce to lead transparent engagement and restore trust.
4. Extension of the public exhibition period to allow meaningful community input.

5. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) should include agricultural and health safeguards, as well as the requirement for a binding Community Benefits Agreement and a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA).
6. If and only if the facility is proven safe, introduce a \$15/tonne community-hosting levy (similar to the existing landfill waste levy), indexed annually, collected at the point of waste generation and directed to host communities.

These requests have not been met, in fact, at the time of this report, the letter remains unanswered.

Independent, peer-reviewed scientific assurance that the proposed facility is safe for people, environment and agriculture

It is truly frustrating that the NSW Government has not worked with the Parkes community to explain the EfW facility given it has encouraged them into NSW. We are repeatedly told there are 1000's of EfW facilities across the world. They are apparently in cities and in agricultural areas. They are in Europe where agricultural standards are higher than our own, but no one can, or has, provide assurances of safety to humans or produce, this seems incredulous.

Referral of the project to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) from the outset

Council has repeatedly asked for the EfW project to be referred to the IPC. It seems so apparent, the EfW project was State-initiated through an expression-of-interest process, it is located on State-owned land and currently will be assessed by the State as part of its response to a Statewide waste crisis. Referral to the IPC would therefore seem at the very least, good governance.

However, in response to Councils various requests the Hon Paul Scully MP, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, has advised (see attached), in essence, that the project is under consideration to be called-in as State Significant Development (SSD) and if it is, it will be treated with due process, which I guess is not unreasonable. Further he advises, "*If the proposal is called-in as SSD, the Commission then becomes the consent authority and holds a public meeting where the Council object to the application, where more than 50 submissions by way of objection are made, or where the applicant has made a political donation*". In effect, the outlined process practically invites an objection from Council.

Albeit that the development application is not yet lodged, Councils objection, should, send a message to the NSW Government that independent planning assessment is considered essential by the Parkes community.

A whole-of-government taskforce to lead transparent engagement and restore trust

The NSW Government has repeatedly acknowledged that the State faces a waste crisis, yet its actions have not reflected the urgency of that declaration. Despite identifying Parkes as a permissible location for EfW infrastructure, the Government has failed to treat this as a crisis requiring a whole-of-government response. There has been no government-led coordinated task force, no comprehensive education campaign, and no meaningful engagement with the Parkes community.

Over several years, Council has repeatedly called on the NSW Government to lead a whole-of-government education campaign, provide evidence-based information, and establish mechanisms to ensure planning integrity and community benefit.

The absence of proactive government engagement has eroded community trust. The community now views the proposal as inequitable and unsafe, regardless of assurances from the proponent. Council's efforts to maintain neutrality have been undermined by the State's failure to provide credible science on these facilities, leaving only negative EfW information and the community feeling abandoned.

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) should include agricultural and health safeguards

I am pleased to advise that NSW Planning has invited Council to contribute to the development of the SEARs for this project, and a detailed response was provided covering the issues raised by the community with Council.

Safeguarding the community if the EfW project progresses - As unpalatable as it may seem, we must prepare to fight for the Parkes community if our efforts to prevent the proposal proceeding are unsuccessful.

Constructive engagement is not an endorsement; it is a disciplined commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of the people we represent.

Critical Review of the proposal

The NSW Department of Planning has invited Council to provide comments for input to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which we have done. As the various applications and studies are submitted, Council will critically review them against the community concerns raised with council.

Hosting Levy

If Parkes is to bear the burden of Sydney's waste, then government must demonstrate respect for this community through recognition and tangible benefits. Our request for a basic host-levy has been ignored for years.

Voluntary Planning Agreement

No discussions with the proponent have been held in relation to Voluntary Planning Agreements at this point. However, it would certainly be in the community's interest that Council seek to negotiate community benefits from the proponent. Given however that these agreements are "voluntary" our ability to negotiate are restricted.

CONCLUSION

In light of the persistent lack of answers, scientific assurance, and government leadership, it is my view that Council must now move from neutrality to formal objection. Council has waited patiently for the facts, for evidence, and for the NSW Government to lead the conversation it initiated, but our community has instead been left in a vacuum, unheard, uncertain, and without the information they reasonably deserve. In these circumstances, Council must now stand with the people of Parkes Shire.

A formal objection is not only justified, it is necessary. It will compel referral of this proposal to the Independent Planning Commission and guarantee a public meeting, finally giving our community an independent forum in which their voices must be heard. Parkes deserves the same protections afforded to metropolitan Sydney. If this technology is not considered safe or suitable for the city, then it is not safe or suitable for Parkes. Our duty is to fairness, clarity, and independent oversight, and that is exactly what this objection delivers.



Cr Neil Westcott

MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

5 December 2025

Ref: NW/KB

The Hon. Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Premier,

Parkes Energy-from-Waste Proposal – Government Inaction and Community Outrage

I write to you once again on behalf of the Parkes community with deep frustration and disappointment.

Sydney is facing an escalating waste crisis, with millions of tonnes of residual waste projected to have no disposal pathway within the next decade. One of the few viable solutions identified by government is Energy-from-Waste (EfW), and Parkes has been earmarked as a strategic location for such a facility. This technology is new to Australia, indeed, unprecedented for a regional community like Parkes.

While the government has set regulations, emission limits, and licensing frameworks, it has made no meaningful attempt to explain these facilities to the public or provide independent evidence that they are safe. Instead, the government has placed the entire burden on the proponent to prove safety. That approach is flawed, proponents will always be seen as influenced by self-interest, and their assurances will never carry the weight of independent, government-sponsored science. Proponents have site-specific obligations, but they cannot be the sole source of truth on a technology that is new to this country.

Government must lead, sponsor, and present the evidence that demonstrates whether EfW facilities protect human health and the environment or if there is inherent safety risks. Globally, hundreds of EfW plants operate, and decades of research should exist to answer this question, but that proof has not been shared with our community. The result is apparent, submissions to the current Parliamentary Inquiry are overwhelmingly negative, which signals either a fundamental flaw in these facilities or a failure to properly inform and engage communities about what EfW is, how it works, why it is needed, and whether it is indeed safe.

Until transparent, peer-reviewed evidence is provided and explained by government, not just proponents, social licence cannot exist, and this project will remain mired in mistrust and misinformation.

In early 2022 the NSW government ran an information session on EfW in Parkes, which we hoped would be the start of an education campaign, but there has been nothing since. Parkes Council has sought constructive engagement, first with the previous government and now with yours, regarding the proposed EfW facility within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP). Despite countless letters, submissions, and meetings, we are still waiting for any meaningful action. We feel our request for action is ignored. Agencies have failed to provide factual, evidence-based information. The community has been left in an information vacuum.



This project has lost its social licence through a lack of government leadership. Communities no longer accept compliance as proof of safety, they expect strong leadership, genuine collaboration and transparency. Regulatory oversight alone is not enough, regulators must support, not replace, ministerial leadership. Government must lead decisively, work openly with the community, and ensure independent oversight. Above all, community health must be proven paramount through independent, peer-reviewed evidence, presented openly to the community. Social licence is built on strong leadership, authentic engagement and delivering beyond expectations. At present, your government has not demonstrated these qualities.

Nowhere in the NSW Government's advice is there clear information that these facilities are safe. The easily drawn conclusion therefore is that they are not!

As you know the NSW Legislative Council's Parliamentary Inquiry into EfW facilities is now underway. While the inquiry is welcome, your government should not need an inquiry to act on matters of safety, transparency, and fairness. These are fundamental responsibilities. The people of Parkes deserve leadership on this matter.

Council has asked for simple, reasonable measures:

1. Independent, peer-reviewed scientific assurance that the proposed facility is safe for people, environment and agriculture. With hundreds, if not thousands, of EfW plants operating worldwide, this information should be readily available and transparently provided. If safety cannot be unequivocally demonstrated, the project must not proceed. This should be business as usual for the Chief Scientist and therefore no cost to government.
2. Referral of the project to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) from the outset to uphold planning integrity. This will ultimately happen anyway, so there is no additional cost to government.
3. A whole-of-government taskforce to lead transparent engagement and restore trust. Again, this should be business as usual for the agencies, and therefore no additional cost to government.
4. Extension of the public exhibition period to allow meaningful community input. No additional cost to government.
5. The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) should include agricultural and health safeguards, as well as the requirement for a binding Community Benefits Agreement and a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). No additional cost to government.
6. If and only if the facility is proven safe, introduce a \$15/tonne community-hosting levy (similar to the existing landfill waste levy), indexed annually, collected at the point of waste generation and directed to host communities (whomever they may be), as a modest recognition of the disproportionate burden borne by regional towns supporting the city waste crisis and to help build social licence. This is an additional levy collected in the same manner as the landfill levy, extra administrative cost would be negligible, therefore no cost to government.

Further, I draw your attention to the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation (RGDC) and its current Expressions of Interest for the next release of the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. It is imperative that RGDC establish clear criteria with a strong bias toward agricultural value-adding and clean, green industries. Our vision is for a precinct that champions innovation, sustainability, and premium food production, not one that undermines our reputation and divides our community.



Council has exercised patience and neutrality since the project inception, in expectation that the NSW Government would provide the facts, leadership, and transparency this community deserves. Sydney's waste crisis is clearly driving decisions that affect Parkes, but the Government has offered Parkes no meaningful assurances on safety, planning integrity, or fairness. This failure has left many residents deeply concerned and others increasingly uncertain, creating division where clarity should prevail.

Council's responsibility is to protect the interests of all its citizens, those who see opportunity and those who fear the risk. But when government neglect erodes trust and leaves critical questions unanswered, neutrality becomes untenable.

This development has fractured our community, creating division where there should be confidence and clarity. Council's foremost responsibility is to protect the interests of all residents and to restore unity. If opposing this project is the only way to achieve that, then we will do so without hesitation. Our position is not driven by ideology but by principle! Community health, trust, and cohesion are non-negotiable. Parkes deserves leadership that unites, not uncertainty that divides. If government will not lead, Council will, decisively and transparently, in the best interests and to unite the people we serve.

Premier, the time for passive observation has long passed. The people of Parkes deserve clarity, respect, and meaningful participation in decisions that affect their future. I implore you to act now, convene the taskforce, direct the referral to IPC, commit to an extended exhibition period, implement the hosting levy, and instruct RGDC to prioritise clean and green industries in the SAP.

These are not radical demands. They are essential steps to restore trust, safeguard public health, and reunite a community fractured by uncertainty and inaction.

Yours faithfully



Cr Neil Westcott
Mayor

The Hon Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces



Ref: MDPE25/1833
Your Ref: NW:KB:TML and NW/KB

Cr Neil Westcott
Mayor
Parkes Shire Council
PO Box 337
PARKES NSW 2870
council@parkes.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of Parkes Shire Council regarding a proposed energy from waste facility in the Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP). I note the community's active engagement on this proposal and note your request for an extended public exhibition period as well as determination by the Independent Planning Commission (the Commission).

If the proposal progresses to submit a development application, it must be supported by a suite of detailed environmental impact and risk assessments which will be set out in the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs). This includes detailed assessments of any potential impacts on human health, agriculture and drinking water quality, transport impacts, social and economic impacts, and a comprehensive community and stakeholder engagement strategy. The SEARs will be prepared in consultation with all relevant government stakeholders including Council who I understand participated in a Planning Focus Meeting held on Tuesday 9 November 2025.

Any application received by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure will undergo a thorough assessment and be considered on its merits. This will include ongoing engagement with Council and the community as well as seeking advice from independent experts and key government stakeholders. All applicants are required to demonstrate their facility will comply with strict air quality and operating standards as set out in environmental legislation and policies, which provide stringent protections for human health and the environment.

As Council is aware, projects assessed by the Department are generally exhibited for public feedback for a minimum period of 28 days. However, there are opportunities to extend this period to provide the community more time to consider the application. The Department will decide on the exhibition timeframe for the Parkes energy from waste proposal when the development application is formally lodged.

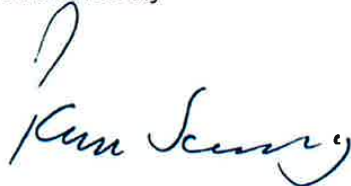
Under the SAP planning framework, the proposed development follows a bespoke planning pathway set up for development in the SAPs. However, in this instance I have sought the advice of the Commission regarding a potential call-in of the proposal as State Significant Development (SSD). If the proposal is called-in as SSD, the Commission then becomes the consent authority and holds a public meeting where the Council object to the application, where more than 50 submissions by way of objection are made, or where the applicant has made a political donation.

I would like to assure Council and the community that the Department's approach to the assessment of the Parkes energy from waste proposal will be consistent with the approach taken for any other energy from waste proposals in NSW, regardless of the consent authority.

Should you have any further questions, Sally Munk, Principal Planner, Industry Assessments at the Department can be contacted on 02 9274 6431 or sally.munk@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

15/1/26

10.2 MEETINGS, FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Advocate and provide strong representation for our community at the regional, state, and federal levels.

Author: **Cr Neil Westcott**

Annexures: **Nil**

MOTION

That Council:

- Note the report on the Meetings functions and events attended in an official capacity, by the Mayor and Councillors during the period 16 January 2026 to 12 February 2026.

REPORT

Table 1: lists the Meetings, functions and events attended by the Mayor and Councillors during the period 16 January 2026 to 12 February 2026:

Table 1: Meetings, Functions and Events attended by Mayor and Councillors	
Date	Function
Monday 19 January	Peak Hill Community Consultative Committee meeting Mayor Neil Westcott and Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee Apology: Cr Louise O’Leary
Tuesday 20 January	Ordinary Council Meeting, Council Chambers All Councillors and Directors Invited
Sunday 25 January	Australian Citizenship Ceremony for Pre-Australia Day Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee, General Manager Kent Boyd, Cr Doug Pout and Cr Joy Paddison Apology: Cr Bill Jayet and Cr George Pratt
Monday 26 January	Australia Day Award Ceremony Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee, Cr Joy Paddison and Cr Doug Pout Along with the Australia Day Committee
Tuesday 3 February	Tour of Parkes Pool & Presentation Mayor Neil Westcott, Cr Joy Paddison, Cr Doug Pout, Cr Kenny McGrath, Cr George Pratt and Cr Matthew Scherer. General Manager Kent Boyd, Andrew Francis, Marisa Malherbe, Annalise Teale, Jaco Barnard, Bronte O’Shannessy Apology: Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee Parkes Tractor Trekkers Certificate Presentation

	<p>All Councillors & Directors Apology: Cr Louise O’Leary</p> <p>Councillor Workshop, Council Chambers</p> <p>All Councillors & Directors Apology: Cr Louise O’Leary</p>
<p>Saturday 7 February</p>	<p>Welcome and Commission of new Minister the Reverend Steve Cimarosti, Anglican Parish Parkes</p> <p>Mayor Neil Westcott and Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee</p>
<p>Monday 9 February</p>	<p>Bogan Gate Community Consultative Committee Meeting</p> <p>Cr George Pratt</p>
<p>Tuesday 10 February</p>	<p>Arrival of a Fokker F100 jet to HARS Museum at Parkes Airport</p> <p>Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Cr Joy Paddison</p> <p>Parkes Shire Australia Day Committee Meeting</p> <p>Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Cr Doug Pout</p>
<p>Wednesday 11 February</p>	<p>Central West Lachlan Landcare Meeting</p> <p>Cr Bill Jayet</p> <p>Tullamore Community Consultative Committee meeting</p> <p>Cr George Pratt</p>



Pictured: Mayor Neil Westcott, Cr Joy Paddison, Dr Skye Charry, Professor HY Willam Chan, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Cr Doug Pout at Australian Citizenship Ceremony on 25th January



Pictured: Cr Doug Pout, Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Cr Joy Paddison accompanied by Dr Skye Charry and Professor HY Willam Chan (Parkes Shire Council 2026 Australia Day Ambassadors) along with our new Citizens at the Australian Citizenship Ceremony on 25th January



Pictured: Mayor Neil Westcott and Mr Peter Guppy from the Australia Day Committee with the Australian Day Award winners and nominees at the Australian Day Award Ceremony on 26th January



Pictured L to R: Official Party of the Ceremony: Mrs Kim Robinson (MC), Mr Tim Keith (Parkes Shire Australia Day Committee Chairperson), Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee, Mayor Neil Westcott, Dr Skye Charry (Australia Day Ambassador), Mr Al Gersbach (Parkes Sports Council President), Reverend Brian Schmalkuche, Mrs Jeanette MacGregor (Ron Harrison OAM's daughter) and Mr Charlie Oraha (Welcome to Country) singing the National Anthem along with Kimberley Ryan



Pictured: Alison Westcott, Cr Joy Paddison and Parkes Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year, Nenyasha Munodawafa at the Australia Day Ceremony in Cooke Parke on 26th January



Pictured: Mayo Neil Westcott, Cr George Pratt and Cr Joy Paddison at the Car Display in Cooke Park on 26th January for Australia Day



Pictured: Cr Doug Pout, Cr George Pratt, Cr Bill Jayet, Melissa Jefferay, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee, Richard Jefferay, Mayor Neil Westcott, Cr Joy Paddison, Cr Matthew Scherer and Cr Kenny McGrath at the Tractor Trekkers certificate presentation on 3rd February



Pictured: Mr Jamie Chaffey MP (Federal Member for Parkes), new Minister the Reverend Steve Cimarosti, Diocesan Bishop Mark Calder, Mr Philip Donato MP (State Member for Orange), Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Mayor Neil Westcott at the commissioning of new Minister the Reverend Steve Cimarosti, Anglican Parish Parkes on 7th February.



Pictured: Cr Joy Paddison, Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee and Mike De La Hunty from the HARS Parkes Aviation Museum at the arrival of a Fokker F100 jet on 10th February.



Cr Neil Westcott

MAYOR

10.3 COMING KNOWN EVENTS FOR MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Advocate and provide strong representation for our community at the regional, state, and federal levels.

Author: Cr Neil Westcott

Annexures: Nil

MOTION

That Council:

- Note the known upcoming meetings, functions and events for the Mayor and Councillors for the period 16 February 2026 through to 12 March 2026:

REPORT

Table 1 below, lists the upcoming meetings, functions and events requiring the attendance of the Mayor or Councillors in relation to community or civic matters during the period 16 February 2026 through to 12 March 2026:

Table 1: Known upcoming Meetings, Functions and Events for Mayor and Councillors	
Date	Function
Monday 16 February	CWA of NSW - Parkes Executive Meeting held in Parkes Mayor Neil Westcott
Tuesday 17 February	PSC Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee Meeting Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee, Cr Bill Jayet, Cr Joy Paddison, Cr Doug Pout, Cr Glenn Wilson and General Manager Kent Boyd Jack Scoble Presentation Invited: All Councillors and Directors Ordinary Council Meeting Invited: All Councillors, General Manager and Directors Apology: Cr Louise O'Leary
Monday 23 February	Peak Hill Community Consultative Committee meeting Mayor Neil Westcott and Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee

Date	Function
Thursday 26 February	Central NSW Joint Organisation (CNSWJO) Board Meeting Invited: Mayor Neil Westcott and General Manager, Kent Boyd Trundle Community Consultative Committee meeting Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee
Tuesday 3 March	Councillor Workshop including Presentations from Sprouts and Sunrise Mine Invited: All Councillors and Directors



Cr Neil Westcott

MAYOR

11 NOTICES OF MOTION/QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE**11.1 SHOPPING TROLLEYS - TOWN PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY****Councillor:** Cr Doug Pout**Annexures:** Nil**MOTION**

That Council:

1. Notes community concerns regarding the increasing number of abandoned shopping trolleys throughout Parkes, including in residential areas, roadways, and public spaces.
2. Notes the associated concerns relating to:
 - Town presentation and amenity
 - Public safety and road hazards
 - Costs and inconvenience borne by residents who relocate abandoned trolleys
 - Hygiene concerns relating to food contact surfaces
 - Environmental inconsistencies arising from increased single use plastics associated with hygiene concerns
3. Requests that Council engage with local supermarket and major retail operators, including Coles, Woolworths, and Big W, to discuss:
 - Current trolley retrieval systems
 - Potential containment measures such as coin return systems, geo fencing, or wheel lock technology
 - Retailer responsibility for proactive management and retrieval
4. Requests a report be presented to Council within a reasonable timeframe, following engagement with local supermarket and major retail operators, outlining:
 - Feedback from retailer engagement
 - Available containment and management options
 - Potential enforcement and cost recovery mechanisms available to Council should voluntary measures prove insufficient
 - Any relevant legislative considerations

OFFICER'S COMMENT**Author:** Annalise Teale, Director Planning and Community Services**Commentary:**

When a shopping trolley is reported to Council as abandoned on Council property, the Rangers investigate and notify the supermarkets through the trolley tracker app (Woolworths and Big W) or

the Coles app (Coles). These are apps that the public can also use and notify the supermarkets of abandoned trolleys.

Once notified through the app, the trolley cannot be impounded by Council for a minimum of 4 days under the Public Spaces (Unattended Property Act) 2021. Generally, the supermarkets collect the trolleys, however if for any reason they don't, Council then impounds and disposes of the trolley. Should the trolley be in a position which is considered to be a hazard or danger to the public, the trolley can be removed immediately.

Making the community aware of the apps through promotion and advertisement may assist with the quicker removal of trolleys. Taking note of the below recommendation, engagement with the major supermarkets can also be completed to identify systems that may reduce the number of abandoned trolleys, with the outcomes reported back to Council.

Cost recovery can be assisted through the sale of trolleys, however with the introduction of plastic trolleys, these are often disposed of at the waste depot upon impounding. The issue of Penalty Infringements Notices can also be enforced if required. Any impounding or enforcement procedures are to be done in accordance with the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021.

12 COUNCILLOR REPORT(S)

Nil

13 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**13.1 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC FORUM MEETING HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2026****IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.**Strategy:** Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.**Author:** **Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator****Authoriser:** **Sharon Ross, Acting Director Operations****Annexures:** **A. Local Traffic Forum Meeting Minutes - 4 February 2026**

RECOMMENDATION

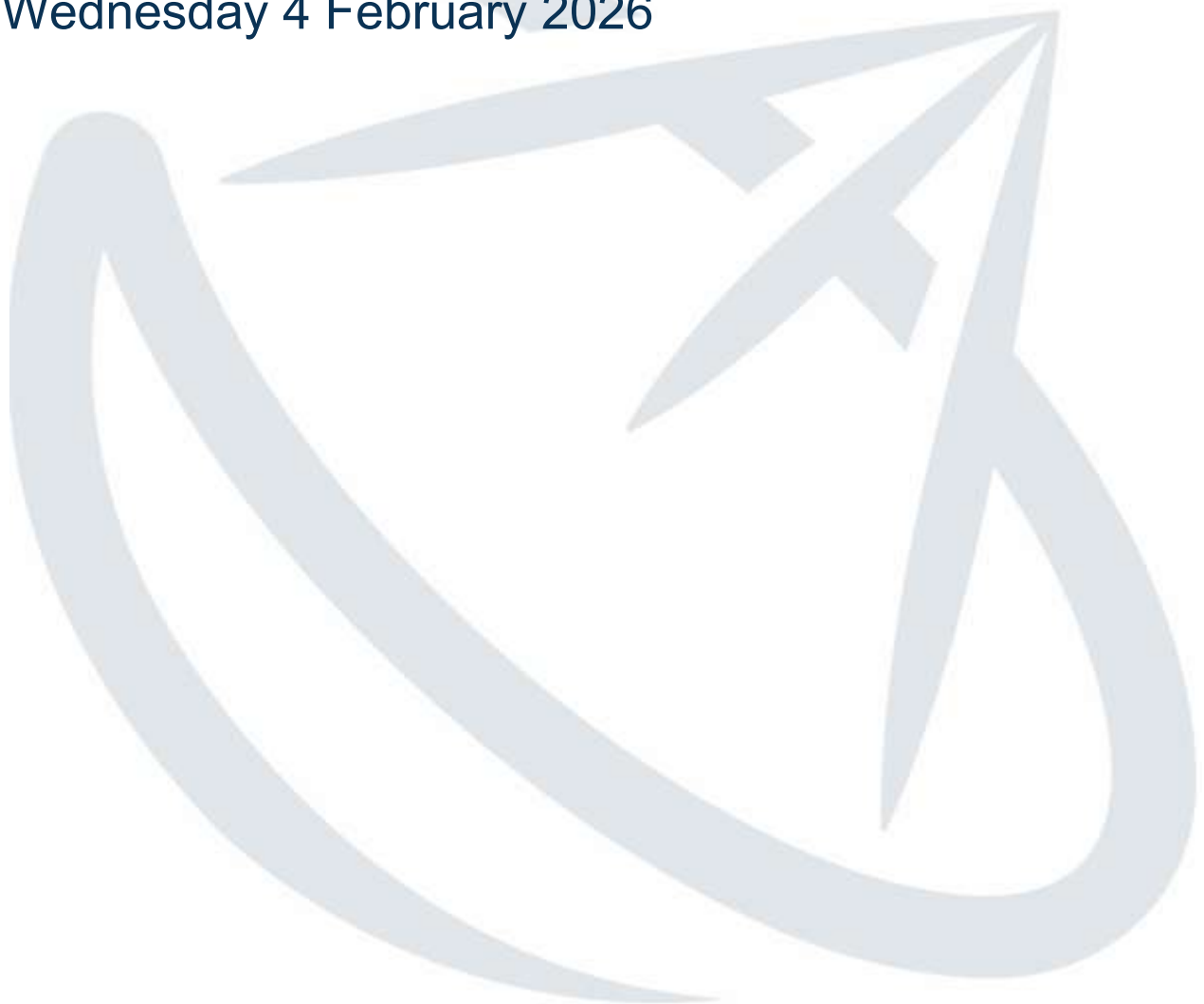
That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Local Traffic Forum Meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.
-

Local Traffic Forum Committee

Minutes

Wednesday 4 February 2026



Minutes of the Local Traffic Forum Committee**Held on Wednesday, 4 February 2026 at the****Committee Room, 2 Cecile Street, Parkes****Present:**

Cr Ken McGrath	Councillor
Mr Jason Nicholson	Transport for NSW
Mr Mitchell Gage	NSW Police
Mr Chris McQuie	Western Road Liners

Council Officers in Attendance:

Ben Coultas	Senior Design Engineer
Melanie Sutor	Road Safety Prevention Officer
Sue McGrath	Business Support Coordinator

NOTES

The meeting commenced at 09.03 am and concluded at 09.43am.

Order Of Business

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1 OPENING OF MEETING

The Chairperson declared the Local Traffic Forum Committee of Wednesday, 4 February 2026 open and welcomed Council Officials in attendance.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chairperson read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Wiradjuri Country and recognises and respects their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the lands and rivers of the Parkes Shire.

Council pays its respects to Elders past, present and emerging and extends this respect to all First Nations peoples in the Parkes Shire.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL TRAFFIC FORUM COMMITTEE HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2025

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 November 2025.

5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

The Chairperson reminded Council Officials of their obligation under Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting, and invited Council Officials present to disclose any such interests.

Nil interests were disclosed.

6 LATE BUSINESS

The Chairperson advised that no late items of business had been submitted to the meeting.

7 OFFICERS' REPORTS**7.1 2026 ANZAC DAY - PARKES****FORUM RECOMMENDATION****Council Responsibilities:**

That:

1. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Notify Emergency services, affected residents and community members of proposed road closures or detours. Road closures to be notified a minimum of 7 days prior to implementation.
 - (b) Allow for emergency vehicle access.
 - (c) Council reserves the right to cancel the approval at any time.
 - (d) If the event is held on a State road that the Council request Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) from Transport for NSW for the event activities.

This recommendation does not commit Council to providing further assistance or provision of equipment for the event

Event Organisers/Applicant Responsibilities:

That:

2. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Control noise as required under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2017.
 - (b) The organiser of the event to be responsible for and reimburse Council for cost of damage repairs, cleaning etc of the street if required.
 - (c) The organiser is to maintain the area in clean and tidy condition.
 - (d) That the organisers receive approval from the Police for holding a Public Assembly and relevant road closures.
 - (e) Confirmation of event times and traffic control times.
 - (f) Comply with Council Officer's reasonable directives.

7.2 2026 ANZAC DAY - PEAK HILL**FORUM RECOMMENDATION****Council Responsibilities:**

That:

1. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Notify Emergency services, affected residents and community members of proposed road closure or detours. Road Closures to be notified a minimum 7 days prior to implementation.
 - (b) Allow for emergency vehicle access.
 - (c) Council reserves the right to cancel the approval at any time.
 - (d) If the event is held on a State road that the Council request Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) from Transport for NSW for the event activities.

This recommendation does not commit Council to providing further assistance or provision of equipment for the event

Event Organisers/Applicant Responsibilities:

That:

2. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Control noise as required under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2017.
 - (b) The organiser of the event to be responsible for and reimburse Council for cost of damage repairs, cleaning etc of the street if required.
 - (c) The organiser is to maintain the area in clean and tidy condition.
 - (d) That the organisers receive approval from the Police for holding a Public Assembly and relevant road closures.
 - (e) Confirmation of event times and traffic control times.
 - (f) Comply with Council Officer's reasonable directives.

7.3 2026 ANZAC DAY - BOGAN GATE**FORUM RECOMMENDATION****Council Responsibilities:**

That:

1. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Notify Emergency services, affected residents and community members of and proposed road closure or detours. Road Closures to be notified a minimum 7 days prior to implementation.
 - (b) Allow for emergency vehicle access.
 - (c) Council reserves the right to cancel the approval at any time.
 - (d) If the event is held on a State road that the Council request Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) from Transport for NSW for the event activities.

This recommendation does not commit Council to providing further assistance or provision of equipment for the event

Event Organisers/Applicant Responsibilities:

That:

2. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Control noise as required under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2017.
 - (b) The organiser of the event to be responsible for and reimburse Council for cost of damage repairs, cleaning etc of the street if required.
 - (c) The organiser is to maintain the area in clean and tidy condition.
 - (d) That the organisers receive approval from the Police for holding a Public Assembly and relevant road closures.
 - (e) Confirmation of event times and traffic control times.
 - (f) Comply with Council Officer's reasonable directives.

7.4 2026 ANZAC DAY - TRUNDLE**FORUM RECOMMENDATION****Council Responsibilities:**

That:

1. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Notify Emergency services, affected residents and community members of proposed road closure or detours. Road Closures to be notified a minimum 7 days prior to implementation.
 - (b) Allow for emergency vehicle access.
 - (c) Council reserves the right to cancel the approval at any time.
 - (d) If the event is held on a State road that the Council request Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) from Transport for NSW for the event activities.

These recommendation does not commit Council to providing further assistance or provision of equipment for the event

Event Organisers/Applicant Responsibilities:

That:

2. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Control noise as required under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2017.
 - (b) The organiser of the event to be responsible for and reimburse Council for cost of damage repairs, cleaning etc of the street if required.
 - (c) The organiser is to maintain the area in clean and tidy condition.
 - (d) That the organisers receive approval from the Police for holding a Public Assembly and relevant road closures.
 - (e) Confirmation of event times and traffic control times.
 - (f) Comply with Council Officer's reasonable directives.

7.5 2026 TRUNDLE ABBA FESTIVAL**FORUM RECOMMENDATION**

That:

1. The proposed be approved for:
 - (a) The Trundle & District Progress Association would like to request the closure of Forbes Street (Cantrill St - Hutton St): Closed Friday 1 May 2026, 7:30am–5:00pm for event setup. Forbes Street (Parkes St - Hutton St): Closed 5:00pm Friday 1 May 2026 - 7:30am Sunday 3 May 2026 for the duration of the festival. Forbes Street (Cantrill St - Hutton St): Closed Sunday 3 May 2026, 7:30am - 1:00pm for pack down as per the attached TGS.

Council Responsibilities:

That:

2. Approval is subject to complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Notify Emergency services of the proposed road closure.
 - (b) Allow for emergency vehicle access.
 - (c) Notify all local residents/businesses in the affected area of proposed traffic restrictions.
 - (d) Council reserves the right to cancel the approval at any time.
 - (a) If the event is held on a State road that the Council request Road Occupancy Licence (ROL) from Transport for NSW for the event activities.
 - (e) This recommendation does not commit Council to providing further assistance or provision of equipment for the event.

Event Organisers/Applicant Responsibilities:

That:

3. Approval is subject to the applicants complying with the following conditions:
 - (a) Provide Council with evidence of Current Public Liability Insurance, Parkes Shire Council, Transport for NSW & NSW Police Force, to be noted as an interested parties.
 - (b) Submit to Council duly completed form A1 "Special Event Transport Management Plan" and associated Traffic Management Plan for approval.
 - (c) Control noise as required under the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008.
 - (d) The organiser of the event to be responsible for and reimburse Council for cost of damage repairs, cleaning etc. of the street if required.
 - (e) Comply with Council Officer's reasonable directives.
 - (f) The organiser is to maintain the area in a clean and tidy condition.
 - (g) That the organisers lodge with Council at least six (6) weeks prior to the event, a Schedule 1 form "Notice of Intention to Hold a Public Assembly".
 - (h) Risk assessment is provided for the event.

8 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

9 CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 09.43am.

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 10 pages numbered 1 to 10 of the Local Traffic Forum Committee held on Wednesday, 4 February 2026.

Cr Ken McGrath

CHAIRPERSON

13.2 MINUTES OF THE PARKES SPORTS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2026**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our local government is open, accountable and transparent.**Strategy:** Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.**Author:** **Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy****Authoriser:** **Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy****Annexures:** **A. Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council Meeting held on 10 February 2026** [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and confirm the Minutes of the Parkes Sports Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 February 2026 appended at *Annexure A*.
 2. Provide notice of intention to close Woodward Oval, Harrison Park (including Parker-Stone Field) and Keast park to Dogs in order to seek changes from dog owners and to report the results back to Council before proceeding with the closure.
-

10 Feb 2026 Sports Council Minutes

Tuesday, 10 February 2026 9:06 AM

Welcome

Al Gersbach welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendance

Luke Nash (Finances), Al Gersbach (Chair), Anthony McGrath (Secretary), Greg Morrissey (Mr Cricket), Richard Rice (Hockey), Andrew Thomas (Senior Rugby League), Wayne Osbourne (Soccer), Andrew Daley (Hockey), Cr D Pout, Michael Greenwood, Ken Keith (Golf),

Online

Linda Snyman (Dragon Boating), Doug Moore (Little Athletics)

Guests

Geoff Finn (Sports Fields Supervisor, Parkes Shire Council), Tim Gillogly (PSC), Graham Bayliss (PSC),

Apologies

Gail Richardson (Community Representative), Wilbur Harris (Netball), Jason O'Bryan (Junior League), Cr Louise O'Leary (Councillor Representative),

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were distributed with the agenda, moved by A McGrath seconded by seconded by Luke Nash that they are a true and correct record. Carried

General Meeting

Notable Sporting Performances or Events

Bowls

- Peak Hill bowls team of Warren Towney, Ricky Read, Cooper Dart and Dylan Skinner took out the NSW Aboriginal Bowls tournament in Moree.

Little As

- Over 50 athletes attended Regional Champs in Dubbo (next step after zone)
- Approx 15 athletes competed at NSW Country Champs. Parkes athletes included 8-46 year olds.
- A number have made NSW state champs, this is currently being confirmed as other regions hold their champs

Dragon Boating

- Won the best float at the Parkes Elvis Festival street parade!

Cricket

- Bogan gate held Grinstead Cup for 18 challenges until beaten by West Wyalong
- Zack Guy selected in U16 NSW Country
- Greg Morrissey received a NSW Cricket Distinguished Service award.

Senior League

- Western Rams senior men's squad includes Junior Iglia and Tom Phillips

Review of Outstanding Actions

13/8/2019	1	Sports Legends Board at Parkes Leagues Club to be reviewed and alternatives considered.	Alan Macdonald
14/10/2020	2	Dedication ceremony for the Cheney family trophy to be conducted before the first Grinstead Cup match this season	Luke Nash
12/03/2024	3	Investigate switchboard upgrade at SDF. Also lights out on Miriah Williams field (SW)	Geoff
0/04/2025	4	Investigate relocation of the Park Run sign to the start of the park run track adjacent to the storage shed on the path--	Tim
10/6/2026	5	SMS lighting system at Lindner Oval is not working consistently	Anthony
11/11/2025	6	Guidelines for closing sporting fields due to wet weather to be reviewed mainly about weekend sport. Consultation with all sporting groups to occur.	Anthony & Tim / Geoff
11/11/2025	7	League have requested that council review the use of Pioneer for the Car Club event and Elvis Rugby. Asking that alternate venues be considered.	Tim
0/12/2025	8	Send sporting contacts to Cr O'Leary	Anthony
0/12/2025	9	Send out reminder to sporting groups to comment on the draft sports field masterplans	Anthony

Discussion / Action Taken

Update provided on the outstanding tasks as follows:

- There is no park run sign. However the sporting groups request that we seek approval from Scott Westcott to name the park run course after him. Anthony to follow up.
- The SMS controller will be sent to Halytech for repair.
- Wet weather guidelines discussed in general business
- There is currently no booking of Pioneer for car club rally.

Correspondence

The following items of correspondence was received or sent

- Advice of meeting and minutes sent out to groups.

Action

1 For information.

Grants Received

This item on the Agenda is for sporting groups to report any other grants they may have received.

Nil.

Sports Projects Update

Tim and Geoff provided the following update at the meeting.

- Lindner Oval irrigation has been installed and has already made a big difference.



- The Cheney Park lighting project was completed last week. Was under budget which allowed the replacement of older lighting with LEDs



- Berryman Oval Netball and Multicourt was completed. Carpark works next. Work included conduit which will allow lighting to be installed.
- Carpark marking to be completed next week.
- General fertilizer program to start very soon
- Town water connected to Pioneer, Spicer and soon to be added to Northparkes to ensure supply following issues with recycled water supply. This issue was also discussed in general business. The photo below was taken a Oval two weeks ago. The grass coverage has since greened up, especially after the recent rain.



Around the Grounds

Little A's

- Elvis camping
- Gala Day in March
- 4 competition nights left
- Ground has bounced back and new area looks good.

Dragon Boating

- Grading of road is great
- 2 missing floats at Lake Endeavour - Anthony to advise
- 3 members competing against other states at the Sunshine coast

Hockey

- Three major championships scheduled in May - will advise if PSC assistance is required
- Approached by Hockey NSW about another HockeyOne event later in the year
- Running a Super 6 hockey competition.

League

- PMP knockout at Parkes on 21 March
- Parkes accepted to play in West Wyalong knockout
- Western Rams v Riverina Bulls on 21 February
- Building up for a super tag gala day - 7-8 players interested locally
- Working bee on 14 February at Pioneer Oval.
- Installed another aerial to improve PA system.
- Pleased to see disability marking at Pioneer carpark and covered area under grandstand for wheelchairs
- Want to see the walkway from Pioneer to Spicer improved - Tim to follow up.
- The gate on the entry to pioneer needs attention - snap send solves have been sent in.

Soccer

- Training underway for youth premier league
- Would like larger fields marked on Parker Stone in next 2 weeks
- Rain has helped fields to recover
- Would like to see more rehab work done

Cricket

- Finals to be held on 21 March 28 March is the reserve weekend.
- Running Interblast junior cricket on hockey turf fields on a Friday night
- New set of covers worked well last week

Golf

- Monthly medal run and won
- Parkes in 4 pennants divisions
- Super 10s competition progressing well
- Course is suffering from a lack of water due to issues with recycled water supply.
- Parkes to hold a round of Veterans golf.

Currajong

- All abilities swimming carnival in March
- Keen to get SuperTag gala day up and running

Netball

- Netball AGM held recently, with all positions filled as well representative coaches awarded for the 2026 season.
- New committee are calling for team nominations now for the next comp due to start next month. Anyone interested please contact the netball assoc or checkout their Facebook page.
- Some more repairs are needed on the courts. Anthony to submit a CRM

Greenwood

- Praised the Australia Day sports awards, which ran well

Financial Report - Operational and Capital Works Projects

Luke presented the financial report and asked that the committee accept the report, which was seconded by Andrew Thomas and carried.

Luke thanked all winter sporting groups for paying their seasonal invoices.

Sporting Grounds - Operational Revenue						
	Budget	Actual	% Budget Received			
Sports Council - Leases/Usage Charges	\$61,731	\$38,107	74%			
Sports Council - SMS Lighting	\$16,210	\$9,753	42%			
	\$67,941	\$44,859	66%			
Sporting Grounds - Operational Expenditure						
	Budget	Actual	Committed	A + C	% Spent	Budget Remaining
Sporting Grounds Operating	\$293,701	\$160,262	\$0	\$160,262	55%	\$133,439
	\$293,701	\$160,262	\$0	\$160,262	55%	\$133,439
Sporting Grounds - Capital Expenditure						
Capital Expenditure Projects	Budget	Actual	Committed	A + C	% Spent	Budget Remaining
Berrymun Oval - Trundle (Flood Repairs) - Carpark, Tennis Courts & Pool Pump Shed (NSW Govt)	\$636,300	\$247,506	\$2,330	\$249,836	39%	\$386,464
Cheney Park Clubhouse Capital Improvements	\$40,000	\$10,913	\$0	\$10,913	27%	\$29,087
Cheney Park - Lighting Upgrade (ClubGrant \$210.5k & PMJRL \$75k)	\$285,580	\$203,482	\$70,715	\$274,197	96%	\$11,383
	\$921,880	\$450,988	\$73,045	\$524,033	57%	\$397,847

General Business

Passing of Local Sporting Identities

Michael Greenwood asked the groups the acknowledge the passing of Local Legend and all round sporting personality, Laurie Wakefield. Greg Morrissey also mentioned the passing of Bernie McGrath who was heavily involved v Junior Cricket and was a life member of the Parkes Marist Junior Rugby League club.

Dogs on Sports Fields

A report from Mr Scott Brackenridge regarding the issue of dogs on sports fields was tabled at the meeting (see attached). The recommendations/option were as follows:

1. The feedback the Rangers have received is that the public use these areas to exercise their dogs as they are large in area, has green watered grass and are fenced. Consideration could be given by Council to the installation of a new larger dog park to that of Bushman's Dam, that is irrigated. And/or;
2. Ban dogs from some or all sporting fields and parks. This would make it a lot easier for the Rangers to enforce penalties. Alternatively, strict enforcement could be applied for dogs to remain on a lead in these areas. Again, it would be a lot easier for compliance.

Additional signage can be installed, however given the amount of current signage, it appears that dog owners who don't pick up after their dog will likely continue to do so even if additional signage is installed. Given the areas can be monitored full-time, and identifying an offence for defecating on the fields is very difficult, it is likely that the issue will remain ongoing unless additional resources are provided to monitor the areas full-time.

Discussion

Other councils have introduced fines for not carrying a bag. Wayne Osbourne suggested that a temporary notice at Harrison Park Keast and Woodward warning of potential ban of dogs for a period of 6 weeks and to monitor for a change in usage habits.

Moved by Wayne Osbourne seconded by Andrew Daley that temporary signage be erected at Harrison, Keast and Woodward warning of potential closure of field to dogs due to owners not picking up after their dogs.



Sports
Council - ...

Cheney Park - Closure of Public Toilets

Manager of Facilities, Sharon Ross has advised that the public toilets at the rear of the Cheney Park Amenities block are to be closed to the public from 1 March 2026. Sporting Organisations can still use them during their activities they will be closed similar to the arrangements we have in place for all other sporting grounds.

The sporting groups present said that they would not be greatly impacted (Parkes Touch was not present) but were concerned that the closure of this block would remove the availability of a public toilet on the southern side of the park.

Cheney Park - Carpark Utilisation

The carpark at McGlynn park needs line marking to guide vehicles especially when two sports are using the facilities. A request from Hockey to have line marking installed via an email from Louise Witherow will be followed up by Anthony.

Woodward Oval - Use for Soccer

Manager of Facilities has advised that the use of Woodward Oval for soccer activities has resulted in damage to the changerooms and there is ongoing concern about the potential damage to the turf wicket. The preference is for it to return to Harrison Park.

Wayne was concerned about the overuse of the fields at Harrison. Limited full size fields with lights at Harrison. The playing surface at Harrison is not at the standard for a premier league competition. Masterplan for Harrison is to have higher quality field available but this is not available. The turf wicket is well managed during the winter season, often needing to move training to Harrison. The damage caused by the visiting teams was repaired and paid for by the visiting clubs. The groups present felt that Woodward Oval should remain as the Premier League soccer ground.

Masters Games

Louise has advised the following options regarding the Masters Games:

- Changing the month to October/November and trying for later this year
- Leaving event in March and start advertising by June 2026 for March 2027
- Or if lack of interest, discontinue and close account and disperse any remaining funds.

There is a bit of Merchandise still on hand, along with banners, trophies etc.

The website is currently off-line at the moment.

Free Grant Information Sessions

Parkes Shire Council's Grants Team is inviting all community groups and sporting clubs across Parkes Shire to attend a free Grants Information Session to help organisations strengthen their grant applications and unlock funding projects. The session will be held on Thursday, 12 March from 6.00pm to 8.00pm in the large meeting room at the Parkes Shire Library, with supper provided. All groups are encouraged to attend.

Recycled Water Issues

The recycled water scheme was found lacking during the recent hot dry spell with a week of over 40 degrees. Graham Bayliss advised that a significant refurbishment program was undertaken in winter. During the hot spell the system failed following a number of breakdowns. In addition the town supply demand reached record levels. Together with the demand from the mine, there wasn't a lot of water available to the sporting fields. To alleviate the issues town water was connected to Pioneer and Spicer with a connection planned for Northparkes. Graham advised that additional storage is being considered for the recycled scheme. Sporting groups were concerned about the amount of raw water being used, which impacts on soil salinity. Also, the water can affect the efficiency of the watering systems, by blocking some of the components. However, most groups praised the efforts of the Open Spaces team in the work done to see the fields bounce back and in much better condition. The sporting groups agreed that work should continue to ensure water supply to sporting fields is available in future where there is high demand.

Next Meeting

10 March 2026 at 7pm.

Meeting Actions

Date	Item	Description	Responsible
10/02/2026	1	Seek approval from Scott Westcott to name the park run track in his honour	Anthony
10/02/2026	2	Follow up a report of issues with carparking at Cheney Park from Parkes Hockey	Anthony
10/02/2026	3	Report 2 missing safety floats at Lake Endeavour	Anthony
10/02/2026	4	Report issues with the surface of the Netball courts for Parkes Netball	Anthony

Attachments

1. Report - Dogs on Sports Fields.

Outlook

FW: Notes for Sports Council Meeting 10 February 2026

From Annalise Teale <Annalise.Teale@parkes.nsw.gov.au>
Date Tue 10/02/2026 9:01 AM
To Anthony McGrath <Anthony.McGrath@parkes.nsw.gov.au>

From: Scott Brakenridge <Scott.Brakenridge@parkes.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 4:24 PM
To: Annalise Teale <Annalise.Teale@parkes.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Notes for Sports Council Meeting 10 February 2026

Hi Annalise,

Council resolved during the December Council Meeting to have clearer signage installed and the investigation of fines before being introduced for off-leash and defecating on sports fields offences.

As you are aware, the Rangers have increased patrols of Harrison Park, Woodward Oval & Keast Park during and after hours (including weekends). The feedback from the Rangers is that whilst dogs are off-leash the majority of the time, the timing and difficulties in catching a dog defecating and owner not picking up the waste is very difficult. Particularly during summer months when dogs are exercised into the later evening with increase daylight and the Rangers are not patrolling. To increase responsible dog ownership, they have handed out waste bags and reminded dog owners of their responsibilities during some of their patrols.

I have also completed an audit of the sporting fields and there does appear to be adequate signage installed currently:

Harrison Park:





Image 1: Signage installed to the Carpark/Entry from the carpark in Nash Street. signage (penalties that apply, and off leash, waste responsibilities. signage at the pedestrian entrance from Nash Street carpark,

Image 2: Details of the
Image 3: Additional



Image 4: More signage at a pedestrian entrance from Nash Street Carpark, entry of Parker Stone Field to the North.

Image 5: Signage to the

Summary: There is only 1 pedestrian access that does not have signage from the Nash Street entrance to the fields.

Woodward Oval:





Image 1: Signage installed to the Carpark/Entry from Philips Street. **Image 2:** Signage installed to the pedestrian access to the northern side of the oval. **Image 3:** Signage installed to the Carpark/Entry from the carpark in Bushman Street.



Image 4: Details of the signage (penalties that apply, and off-leash, waste responsibilities).

Summary: There is only 1 pedestrian access that does not have signage from located on the northern side of the oval.

Keast Park:



Image 1: Signage installed to the Close Street frontage.

Image 2: Signage installed to the Grenfell Street frontage.

Image 3: Signage installed to the Hooley Street frontage.

Summary: Keast Park is not fenced and does have quite a lot of open areas for the public to access. Additional signage could be installed, however this park has the least amount of use for the applicable parks/ovals.

Recommendations/Options:

1. The feedback the Rangers have received is that the public use these areas to exercise their dogs as they are large in area, has green watered grass and are fenced. Consideration could be given by Council to the installation of a new larger dog park to that of Bushman's Dam, that is irrigated. And/or;
2. Ban dogs from some or all sporting fields and parks. This would make it a lot easier for the Rangers to enforce penalties. Alternatively, strict enforcement could be applied for dogs to remain on a lead in these areas. Again, this is a lot easier for compliance.

Additional signage can be installed, however given the amount of current signage, it appears that dog owners who don't pick up after their dog will likely continue to do so even if additional signage is installed. Given the areas cannot be monitored full-time, and identifying an offence for defecating on the fields is very difficult, it is likely that the issue will remain ongoing unless additional resources are provided to monitor the areas full-time.

I will discuss with you tomorrow.

14 REPORTS OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

14.1 LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS FROM COUNCILLOR JOY PADDISON AND COUNCILLOR LOUISE O'LEARY

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Provide open and transparent decision-making and undertake the civic duties of Council with professionalism and integrity.

Author: Toni Lennane, Executive and Councillor Support Coordinator

Authoriser: Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager

Annexures: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Grant Councillor Louise O'Leary a leave of absence from the Ordinary Council meetings to be held on 17 February 2026 and 17 March 2026.
 2. Grant Councillor Joy Paddison a leave of absence from the Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 17 March 2026.
-

BACKGROUND

A leave of absence is a formal permission granted by way of Council resolution to a Councillor excusing that Councillor's attendance at a particular meeting.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Councillor Louise O'Leary is seeking leave of absence for the Ordinary Council meetings being held on 17 February 2026 and possibly 17 March 2026 as she will be unable to attend the meetings and other associated Councillor duties during that period, due to family health issues.

Councillor Joy Paddison is seeking a leave of absence for the Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 17 March 2026 and will be unable to attend to other associated Councillor duties during the week of 16 to 20 March 2026, due to being away on annual leave.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Section 5.5 of the Code of Meeting Practice states that where a councillor is unable to attend one or more meetings of the council or committees of council, the councillor should submit an apology for the meetings they are unable to attend, state the reasons for their absence and request that the council grant them a leave of absence. Section 5.6 states that the council must be reasonable when considering whether to grant the councillor's request for a leave of absence.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications because of this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

No significant risks arise because of this report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

No Community consultation is required.

14.2 INVESTMENTS AND BORROWINGS REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is sustainable and plans for the future.

Strategy: Operate in a financially sustainable and responsible manner.

Author: Luke Nash, Executive Manager Finance

Authoriser: Jaco Barnard, Chief Financial Officer

Annexures: A. Investment Register - January 2026 [↓](#)
B. Loan Schedule - January 2026 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Statement of Investments and Borrowings as at 31 January 2026.

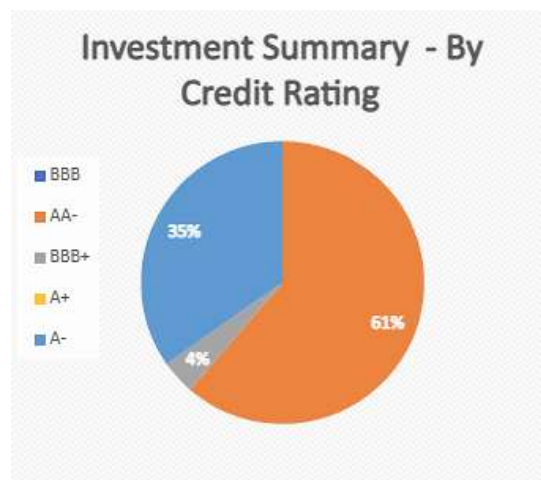
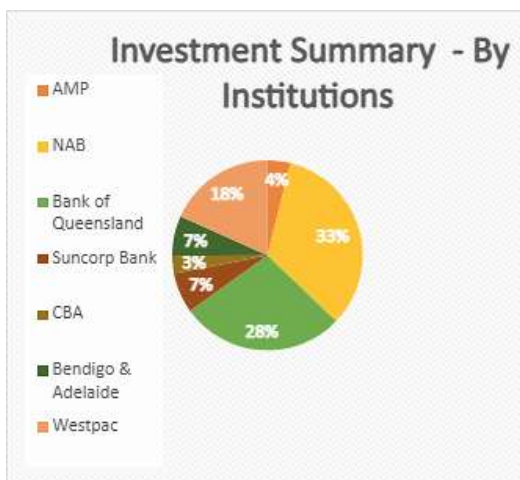
BACKGROUND

In accordance with clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 ("the Regulations"), the Responsible Accounting Officer must provide Parkes Shire Council ("Council") with a monthly written report setting out details of Council's investments under section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 ("the Act"). The report must also include certification that these investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

The balance of Council's investments as of 31 January 2025 stands at \$51,091,667 and the principal outstanding on council's borrowings at \$19,657,570. Investment holdings decreased by \$720 thousand during January.

On 31 January 2025, Council's investment portfolio continued to yield 4.38 per cent per annum. The strong performance over longer-term timeframes continues to be driven by the handful of the longer-dated deposits that were originally invested beyond 9-12 months, as well as the FRN portfolio. Council's investments cover externally restricted cash reserves and internal restricted cash reserves. The following charts depict a summary of the investments held by Council based on the individual institutional exposure and credit rating of the institutions with which they are held.



LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Council's investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy which accords with the requirements of the:

- Local Government Act 1993 ("the Act") - Section 625
- Local Government Act 1993 - Order (of Minister) dated 16 November 2020
- The Trustee Amendment (Discretionary Investments) Act 1997 - Sections 14A(2), 14C(1) and (2); and
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 ("the Regulation") - Clauses 212 and 215.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All returns on investments are included in Council's Operating Budget. Any amendment to budgeted interest income is affected through the Quarterly Budget Review process. Both the average level of funds invested, and the rate of return determine returns. In accordance with the Australian equivalent of International Accounting Standards, securities that are classified as held for trading are required to be valued at market value at each balance date. Investments in the form of cash or cash equivalents and held to maturity investments are valued at cost. Floating Rate Notes acquired on the secondary market are valued at cost. Where the purchase consideration is different to face value, the resulting premium or discount are amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the Note.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's investments are managed in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. As at the end of January, all counterparties were within the Policy limits. Overall, the portfolio is diversified amongst the investment grade spectrum with no exposure to unrated ADI's.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

The Chief Financial Officer has certified that the investments listed in the Investment Summary have been made in accordance with section 625 of the Act, clause 212 of the Regulation and Council's Investment Policy. Council's investments continue to focus on capital protection, as well as compliance with the Investment Policy, whilst actively seeking the best return allowable within these parameters. It is recommended that Council receive and note the Statement of Investments and Borrowings as on 31 January 2026.

Parkes Shire Council Investment Register as at 31 January 2026						
ADI/Issuer	Rating	Investment Type	Principal	Yield	Settlement Date	Maturity Date
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	1,000,000	4.30	5/15/2025	2/16/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	1,000,000	4.30	5/19/2025	2/19/2026
Suncorp Bank	AA-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.41	6/19/2025	2/19/2025
Suncorp Bank	AA-	Term Deposit	500,000	4.41	6/19/2025	2/19/2026
Bank of Queensland	A-	Term Deposit	2,000,000	4.14	8/28/2025	2/27/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	2,000,000	4.20	7/21/2025	2/27/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	2,500,000	4.10	8/21/2025	3/23/2026
Bank of Queensland	A-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.24	10/9/2025	4/9/2026
Bank of Queensland	A-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.19	10/23/2025	4/23/2026
Bendigo & Adelaide	A-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.24	1/19/2026	5/19/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	2,000,000	4.05	8/28/2025	5/28/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	3,000,000	4.10	6/30/2025	5/29/2026
Bank of Queensland	A-	Term Deposit	2,000,000	4.34	11/17/2025	6/17/2026
Bank of Queensland	A-	Term Deposit	1,000,000	4.34	11/24/2025	6/24/2026
Bendigo & Adelaide	A-	Term Deposit	2,000,000	3.89	8/29/2025	6/29/2026
AMP	BBB+	Term Deposit	2,000,000	4.40	1/15/2026	7/14/2026
Bank of Queensland	A-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.49	1/20/2026	7/20/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	1,000,000	4.10	8/21/2025	8/21/2026
Bank of Queensland	A-	Term Deposit	2,220,000	4.29	11/28/2025	10/28/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.15	10/29/2025	10/29/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.25	11/27/2025	11/27/2026
NAB	AA-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.60	1/9/2026	1/11/2027
CBA	AA-	Floating Rate Note	1,508,385	4.43	1/11/2022	1/14/2027
Suncorp Bank	AA-	Term Deposit	1,500,000	4.45	1/19/2026	1/19/2027
Bank of Queensland	A-	Floating Rate Note	2,526,400	4.41	11/12/2025	11/20/2028
Westpac	AA-	Cash at Call - Main	1,421,877		<i>At Call</i>	
Westpac	AA-	Cash at Call - Maxi	7,915,005		<i>At Call</i>	
Total			51,091,667			

Investment Balances by Type		
Term Deposit	37,720,000	
Floating Rate Note	4,034,785	41,754,785 <i>Investments</i>
Cash at Call - Main	1,421,877	
Cash at Call - Maxi	7,915,005	9,336,882 <i>Cash</i>
Total Balance - 31/12/2025	51,091,667	

I, Jaco Barnard, Parkes Shire Council Chief Financial Officer, certify as required under Section 212 of the Local Government Regulations 2021, that Council's investments have been made in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Parkes Shire Council Investment Policy.

Signed: *Jaco Barnard*

Parkes Shire Council Loan Register as at 31 January 2026							
Borrower (by Purpose)	Lender	System Loan No.	Loan Term Years	Date of Maturity	Interest Rate	Original Amount Borrowed \$	Principal Outstanding as 31 January 2026
General Fund							
Airport Runway Rehabilitation	NAB	1	20	2030	8.21%	\$ 2,000,000	759,613.17
30 Welcome Street	NAB	3	20	2030	8.21%	\$ 500,000	189,903.29
Henry Parkes Centre	NAB	4	20	2030	8.01%	\$ 950,000	357,199.12
Community Infrastructure, Drainage Projects and IT	TCorp	10	10	2026	3.485%	\$ 2,220,000	2,220,000.00
Transport Infrastructure	TCorp	11	10	2028	3.670%	\$ 3,000,000	3,000,000.00
Land Development	TCorp	12	10	2044	5.730%	\$ 4,000,000	3,831,174.08
Total General Fund						\$ 12,670,000	10,357,889.66
Sewer Fund							
Parkes Sewer Treatment Plant	TCorp	7	10	2026	2.90	\$ 4,000,000	4,000,000.00
Total Sewer Fund						\$ 4,000,000	4,000,000.00
Water Fund							
Parkes Water Treatment Plant	TCorp	9	20	2036	3.045	\$ 8,500,000	5,299,680.24
Total Water Fund						\$ 8,500,000	5,299,680.24
Total All Funds						\$ 25,170,000	19,657,569.90

14.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31 JANUARY 2026**IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is sustainable and plans for the future.**Strategy:** Operate in a financially sustainable and responsible manner.**Author:** Luke Nash, Executive Manager Finance**Authoriser:** Jaco Barnard, Chief Financial Officer**Annexures:** A. Directors Report - January 2026 [↓](#)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receive and note the year-to-date financial reports for the period up to 31 January 2026.

BACKGROUND

The NSW Local Government Act section 8B establishes principles of sound financial management as follows:

- a) Council spending should be responsible and sustainable, aligning general revenue and expenses.
- b) Councils should invest in responsible and sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of the local community.
- c) Councils should have effective financial and asset management, including sound policies and processes for the following:
 - (i) performance management and reporting,
 - (ii) asset maintenance and enhancement,
 - (iii) funding decisions,
 - (iv) risk management practices.
- d) Councils should have regard to achieving intergenerational equity, including ensuring the following:
 - (i) policy decisions are made after considering their financial effects on future generations,
 - (ii) the current generation funds the cost of its services (which also means the current generation should not bear costs for benefit of future generations)

This report monitors the progress of the 2025-26 operational budget, which programs the plan to achieve the actions, and strategic objectives set within Council's delivery plan.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Council has achieved an unfavourable consolidated net operating result of \$2.4m at the end of January which is \$3m over budget. The general fund reflected a loss of \$2.1m, the water fund reflected a profit of \$96k while the sewer fund reflected a loss of \$403k. The year-to-date income was \$3.2m more than budgeted, while the cash expenses were \$2.4m more than budgeted.

Depreciation was \$3.8m more than budget mainly due to the road assets revaluation which was done in the 2024/25 financial year.

Annexure A provides more detailed commentary into the financial performance of the organisation for the period ending 31 January 2025 compared to the adopted budget.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Local Government Act (section 8B)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The monthly financial report presented a comparison between actuals vs. budget for the period ending 31 January 2026.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's budgets are monitored in accordance with the adopted operational plan and long-term financial plan. It is essential for council to monitor programs against budget to avoid depending on savings from other programs and to utilise reserves that had been set aside for other specific purposes.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

PSC Income Statement 2025/2026
 January Year to Date

	Consolidated			General Fund			Water Fund			Sewer Fund			Financial Commentary
	Act \$'000	Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Act \$'000	Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Act \$'000	Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Act \$'000	Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	
Rates and annual charges	26,556	26,848	(292)	20,643	20,661	(18)	3,700	3,745	(45)	2,213	2,442	(229)	Pension Rebate (-\$81k), Waste (+\$57k), Water Access (-\$45k), Sewer Access (-\$229k)
User charges and fees	7,911	6,463	1,449	3,599	2,728	871	3,952	3,380	572	360	354	6	Waste (+\$493k) Asbestos and Inland rail, FDCare (+\$374k), Water NPM (+\$536k)
Interest and investment revenue	1,311	634	677	914	321	593	273	209	64	124	104	20	Higher cash balance due to grants and increase in interest rates.
Other revenues	1,461	971	490	1,429	909	519	33	48	(16)	0	13	(13)	Elvis sponsorship (+\$310k), Merchandise (+\$94k), Workers Comp (+\$18k)
Grants and contributions provided for opex	4,988	4,126	862	4,960	4,126	834	28	0	28	0	0	0	Fresh Start (+\$151k), FAGs (+\$1.5m), RMCC (-\$756k), Stronger CC (+\$122k), FDC (+\$200k), RFS (-\$105k), RSO Officer (-\$53k), Reghousing (-\$50k), Regional Drought (-\$75k), Business Dev (-\$100k), NoxinsProg (-\$63k)
Income	42,228	39,042	3,185	31,544	28,745	2,799	7,986	7,383	603	2,697	2,914	(216)	
Employee Cost	13,124	12,041	(1,083)	11,110	10,256	(855)	1,076	963	(113)	937	822	(116)	Works & Services (-\$577k), Water (-\$113k), Sewer (-\$116k)
Materials & Consumables	908	2,255	1,347	639	1,712	1,073	194	292	98	75	251	176	Fleet & Depot (+\$420k), Road maintenance (+\$578k), Pool (-\$88k), Water (+\$98k) Sewer (+\$176k)
External Services	9,976	7,599	(2,377)	8,905	6,357	(2,548)	857	719	(138)	215	523	308	Econ Dev (-\$201k), Events (-\$113k), Road maintenance (-\$945k), FDCare (-\$498k), Pool (-\$309k), Water (-\$138k), Sewer (+\$308k)
Water, Electricity & Statutory	2,279	2,042	(237)	907	629	(278)	1,296	1,273	(24)	75	140	65	Rates (-\$322k), Water (+\$43k)
IT & Communications	121	182	61	115	179	64	0	3	3	4	0	(4)	
Insurance	506	543	37	506	543	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Administration	2,358	1,965	(392)	2,040	1,719	(322)	283	229	(54)	35	18	(17)	Governance (-\$76k), Timing of IT subscriptions (-\$156k), Fleet & Depot (-\$109k), Water Licences (-\$54k)
Travel & Entertainment	188	150	(39)	184	138	(46)	3	9	5	1	3	2	Events (-\$57k)
Financials	245	305	60	169	305	137	35	0	(35)	41	0	(41)	Unwinding of discount (+\$84k)
Internal Charges	(1,176)	(1,235)	(60)	(2,720)	(2,739)	(19)	985	995	10	559	508	(50)	
Interest Paid	470	467	(3)	305	303	(2)	96	96	(0)	69	68	(1)	
Cost of Assets Sold	336	420	84	305	420	115	31	0	(31)	0	0	0	Profit due to vehicle sales.
Sale Proceeds of Assets	(478)	(282)	196	(415)	(282)	133	(63)	0	63	0	0	0	
Expenses	28,856	26,450	(2,406)	22,050	19,540	(2,510)	4,793	4,579	(215)	2,011	2,332	321	
Cash profit for the year	13,371	12,592	780	9,494	9,206	288	3,193	2,804	388	687	582	105	
Depreciation	15,749	11,905	(3,844)	11,564	8,124	(3,439)	3,097	2,759	(338)	1,089	1,022	(67)	Increase due to revaluation of roads assets.
Net Operation result as at January	(2,378)	686	(3,064)	(2,070)	1,081	(3,151)	96	46	50	(403)	(441)	38	

14.4 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is sustainable and plans for the future.**Strategy:** Operate in a financially sustainable and responsible manner.**Author:** Luke Nash, Executive Manager Finance**Authoriser:** Jaco Barnard, Chief Financial Officer**Annexures:** A. [Parkes Shire Council - Quarterly Budget Review - 31 December 2025](#) ↓**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Receive and note the budget review report to 31 December 2025
2. Adopt the budget variations proposed in the quarterly budget review to 31 December 2025

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 not later than two months after the end of each quarter (except the June Quarter), the Responsible Accounting Officer must submit to Council a statement that shows by reference to the estimate of income and expenditure set out in the management plan that Council has adopted for the current year, a revised estimate of the income and expenditure for that year. The Office of Local Government (OLG) has updated its guidelines and provided a standardised reporting format in the August 2025 issue.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Council's original net operating budgeted result for the year ending 30 June 2026 was a deficit of (\$2.97 million). This comprised an operating loss of (\$3.99 million) in the General Fund, partially offset by operating surpluses of \$0.93 million in the Water Fund and \$0.09 million in the Sewer Fund.

During the second quarter, further variations to the original budget were identified. As a result, Council is now projecting a revised net operating deficit of (\$8.13 million) for the year ending 30 June 2026, following some favourable movements recorded in the latter part of the quarter.

As previously reported, the primary driver of the significant variance from the original budget is an increase in depreciation expense of \$6.35 million. While depreciation is a non-cash item, it has a material impact on Council's operating result from continuing operations.

A range of favourable and unfavourable variations were identified during the second quarter (October to December 2025). Collectively, these variations have resulted in a net improvement to the consolidated operating result of \$1.095 million.

The table below summarises the proposed budget variations for inclusion in the Quarterly Budget Review for the quarter ended 31 December 2025.

Fund	Reporting Category	Budget Variation Amount	Reason for Proposed Variation
General	Income – User Fees & Charges	500,000	The increase in user fees and charges reflects higher income from commercial waste disposal at the Parkes Landfill Facility, driven by commercial activity exceeding budget estimates.
Water	Income – User Fees & Charges	550,000	Water consumption is higher than budget projections as a result of extended periods of below-average rainfall.
General	Income – Grants and Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	75,000	The recognition of income relates to NSW Government Community Improvement Districts (CID) funding agreements, under which funding is allocated across both operating and capital expenditure components
General	Income – Grants and Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	15,000	
General	Expense – Materials & Services	300,000	The recognition of expenditure relates to the rollout of Community Improvement District (CID) projects. Although the projects are fully funded, funding will be received from the NSW Government across multiple financial years.
General	Income – Interest and Investment Income	620,000	Investment interest income has increased significantly due to higher yields and larger average investment balances resulting from the timing of capital works.
Water	Income – Interest and Investment Income	50,000	
General	Income – Net gain from disposal of assets	200,000	The variance reflects the recognition of proceeds from the sale of fleet assets that were not included in the adopted budget.
General	Employee benefits and on costs	600,000	Employee costs have increased due to a reduction in capitalised salaries. This reflects a change in the allocation of staff costs from capital projects to operating activities rather than an increase in staffing levels or wage rates.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Clause 203. The quarterly budget review monitors the progress of the 2025/26 operational budget, which programs the plan to achieve the actions, and strategic objectives set within Council's progressive delivery plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The quarterly budget review for has been presented from a comparison between actuals vs. budget and budget forecast for each fund across council to 31 December 2025.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's budgets are monitored in accordance with the adopted operational plan and long-term financial plan. It is essential for council to monitor programs against budget to avoid depending on savings from other programs and to utilise reserves that had been set aside for other specific purposes.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

CONCLUSION

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005:

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Parkes Shire Council for the quarter ended 31 December 2025 still indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2026 will be unsatisfactory at year end at a consolidated level and across general fund operations.

15 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMY**15.1 OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2025/2026 - 1 JULY TO 31 DECEMBER 2025****IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.**Author:** Teresa Cooper, Corporate Planning and Performance Coordinator**Authoriser:** Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy**Annexures:** A. Summary of the 2025-2026 Operational Plan Progress Report July - December 2025. [↓](#)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Adopt the 2025/26 Operational Plan Progress Report (1 July to 31 December 2025), linked at [Operational Plan Progress Report - July to December - 2025](#), pursuant to section 4.9 of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines.
2. Endorse the placement of the 2025/26 Operational Plan Progress Report (1 July to 31 December 2025) on Council's web site.

BACKGROUND

The Integrated Planning and Reporting ("IP&R") provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act") require Parkes Shire Council ("Council") to develop and adopt an inter-related suite of strategic documents, including a 10-year Community Strategic Plan, four-year Delivery Program, and annual Operational Plan.

Under the IP&R Guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government and prescribed under section 23A of the Act; Council's General Manager must ensure that progress reports are provided to the Council's governing body, with respect to the principal activities detailed in the Delivery Program, at least every six months.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

In line with Council's commitment to open, accountable and representative local government, Council has chosen to report on the implementation of its Delivery Program every six months.

The Operational Plan Progress Report (1 July to 31 December 2025) summarises Council's progress on the implementation of its Delivery Program 2025-2029. A summary of the report can be found at *Annexure A*. The full Operational Plan Progress Report (1 July to 31 December 2025) can be viewed by accessing the following link:

→ [Operational Plan Progress Report - July to December - 2025](#)

The report comprises the following sections:

- **Part 1 - Introduction:** Outlines the IP&R framework, including the role and purpose of the Operational Plan, and how Council plans and reports on the progress of its Delivery Program.
- **Part 2 - 2025/26 Operational Plan:** Outlines the Operational and Capital Funding Summary and key achievements in the implementation of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 3 – Certification and Regulation:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Certification and Regulation function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 4 – Community and Culture:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Community and Culture function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 5 – Commercial Enterprise:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Commercial Enterprise function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 6 – Council and Corporate:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Council and Corporate function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 7 – Economy and Activation:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Economy and Activation function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 8 – Emergency Services:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Emergency Services function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 9 – Environment and Sustainability:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Environment and Sustainability function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 10 – Flooding and Drainage:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Flooding and Drainage function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 11 – Open Space and Recreation:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Open Space and Recreation function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 12 – Sewerage:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Sewerage function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 13 – Transport:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Transport and Drainage function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 14 – Water Supply:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Water Supply function of the Delivery Program.
- **Part 15 – Waste Management:** Reports on Council's progress in implementing the outputs outlined in the Waste Management function of the Delivery Program.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

As detailed above, Council is required under the [Local Government Act](#) and [IP&R Guidelines](#) to develop and adopt a Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The General Manager is required to provide progress reports at least once every six months to Council's governing body on the organisation's progress in achieving the principal activities contained in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Completing Operational Plan reporting and effectively aligning it to our Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework is essential for Councils as it acts as a vital control to prevent reputational damage by ensuring transparency and accountability. This process helps Council stay aligned with community priorities, track progress effectively, and make informed decisions, thereby maintaining public trust and confidence.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report, however under Council's IP&R framework, community engagement is built into the process to ensure that the community is providing feedback, advice and direction to Council's activities. The report will also be placed on Council's website.

15.2 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - CUSTOMER, CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMY - JANUARY 2026

IP&R Linkage: Pillar: Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.

Author: Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy

Authoriser: Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy

Annexures: A. Major Projects Report - DCCSE - January 2026 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the status report of Major Projects within Parkes Shire Council's Customer, Corporate Services and Economy Directorate.

BACKGROUND

A monthly status report of Major Projects within Parkes Shire Council's Customer, Corporate Services and Economy Department is tabled to keep Council abreast of projects being undertaken across the Parkes Shire.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

This report presents an update on the current major projects within the Parkes Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Customer, Corporate Services and Economy Directorate. The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month, together with work to be done in the next month and is provided for the information of Councillors.

The Directorate Major Projects and Current Works Report is appended at *Annexure A*.

Projects listed include:

Project	Status	Comment
Parkes Elvis Festival (PEF) 2026		<i>Final survey and review are underway.</i>
The Community Improvement District (CID) Pilot Program		<i>Engagement is low but project is on track</i>
Fresh Start Program – New Cadets, Apprentices and Trainees		<i>18 new positions approved, 11 roles are in training. But 2 could not be supported, 3 have since resigned and only 2 of the 7 civil apprentice roles could be filled.</i>
CiA Live Corporate Software System Upgrade.		<i>Initial planning has commenced</i>

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects have been allocated funding either from grants or Council funds as provided in the Operational Budget and indicated in the report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Project risk status is indicated by the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) indicators as shown against each project in the report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Each project may have its own requirements for community consultation or notification in relation to the delivery of the project works.

15.3 REQUEST TO USE PARKES TOWN IMPROVEMENT RESERVE TO FUND THREE PROJECTS**IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Community**Goal:** Our community is safe, active and healthy.**Strategy:** Enhance recreation and culture, provide sport, recreation and play space facilities that encourage participation, connection and support for healthy and wellbeing lifestyles.**Author:** Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy**Authoriser:** Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager**Annexures:**
A. **Email from Parkes Gun Club Requesting sealing of Nanardine Lane**
[↓](#)
B. **Email from Parkes Panthers AFL Requesting Upgrade of the Northparkes Oval Scoreboard** [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the allocation of up to \$52,400 from the Parkes Town Improvement Reserve to seal 130 meters of Nanardine Lane adjacent to the Parkes Gun and Pistol Club grounds.
 2. Approve the allocation of up to \$32,000 from the Parkes Town Improvement Reserve to upgrade the front row of sails at the Cooke Park Pavilion.
 3. Approve the allocation of up to \$8,000 from the Parkes Town Improvement Reserve to upgrade the number panels on the Northparkes Oval Scoreboard.
-

BACKGROUND

Parkes Shire Council ("Council") is guided by the advice provided by the various Community Consultative Committees ("CCC") in determining the most appropriate projects to be included in their Town Improvement Fund ("TIF") reserve allocations, however, the final decision concerning the expenditure of the funds remains with Council.

There is currently no recognised CCC for Parkes. Projects under consideration for funding from the Parkes TIF Reserve are brought to the council either by Councillors or staff after consultation with relevant community groups.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY**Sealing of Nanardine Lane**

The council have received an email from Mr Brett Dean of the Parkes Gun Club, included as *Annexure A*. In his email, Mr Dean stated that the Club is hosting a Commonwealth championship shoot on 13 June 2026, which will be televised. Nanardine Lane is an unsealed road running along the western boundary of the club grounds, which is used to access the facilities. A lot of dust is generated by attending members and passing traffic along the lane. He stated that the surface upgrade would support the Pistol Club, the Parkes Branch of the SSAA as well as their club. The section of the Lane proposed for sealing is shown on the following aerial photo.



Cooke Park Pavilion Shade Sail Upgrade

The shade sails at the Cooke Park Pavilion have received two upgrades during recent years including a 'bra' to infill the gaps between the major sails and a new rear sail, which extends to cover the entire length of the area. As can be seen in the included photo below, the existing front three sails have become stretched over time and are affected by wind gusts. They are also time consuming to erect. This area would benefit from a new sail, covering the whole area. Operationally, a single sail like the rear sail, is easier and quicker to erect. It should also be noted that the front sails could be repurposed to cover other areas if they are replaced.

A quote was obtained from the original vendor to supply a new shade sail as described below under the financial implications section.



Northparkes Oval Scoreboard Upgrade

The Northparkes Oval scoreboard is used by four sporting groups to score matches including Rugby League, Rugby Union, Cricket and AFL.

Council staff received an email included as *Annexure B* from Mr Mark Salau, President of the Parkes Panthers AFL football club (the “Club”) advising that they had noticed that the numbers on the scoreboard at Northparkes Oval had become difficult to read.

On further investigation it was discovered that the seal around the number modules had perished. The Club obtained a quote from the original scoreboard manufacturer who advised that they could provide replacement number modules for the scoreboard. The Club also advised that the modules are user installable and that they have a qualified electrician who could install the modules into the scoreboard, if needed.

In his email to Council advising of the problems with the existing scoreboard, Mr Salau advised that Council should consider the option of a full upgrade to an LED screen. However initial inquiries as to the cost of a large LED screen indicates that it would be more than \$50,000. Given the prohibitive cost of a new LED screen, the recommendation is that the existing numbers be upgraded for now to ensure that a working scoreboard is available as soon as possible.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993 (“the Act”) states that Council must have an Operational Plan, which includes a detailed annual budget, which details the activities to be engaged as part of the Delivery Program for that year. In addition, that plan must be publicly exhibited.

Council must vote to allocate funds from its reserves for projects not listed in its Operational Plan in accord with the Financial Reserves Policy.

These projects were not specifically listed in the Operational Plan and Budget for completion this fiscal year and therefore require the approval of the council to proceed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Estimates and quotes have been received for the projects as follows:

1. Seal 130m of Nanardine Lane from Back Trundle Road to the entrance of the Club - \$52,400
2. Replace the front shade sails at the Cooke Park Pavilion - \$31,860

3. Replace number modules in Northparkes Scoreboard - \$7,022

Regarding the shade sail, it was noted by the supplier that there is a need to upgrade two poles to ensure engineering compliance with a larger sail. An additional contingency has been added to bring the total estimated cost to \$32,000.

There are \$341,247 in uncommitted funds available in the Parkes Town Improvement Reserve. Therefore, these projects can be easily accommodated using a total allocation of \$92,400 from the Parkes TIF reserve.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of the recommendations for the report will ensure that Council will comply with section 356 of the Act and allow the transfer of funds from its reserves to support the projects in accord with its Financial Reserves Policy.

There is a reputational risk to Council of providing sporting and other infrastructure that does not meet the needs of its users or the wider community.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There is no further consultation requirement for Council associated with this report.

15.4 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR DELEGATES FOR 2026 CONFERENCES**IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Advocate and provide strong representation for our community at the regional, state, and federal levels.**Author:** Toni Lennane, Executive and Councillor Support Officer**Authoriser:** Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy**Annexures:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Endorse the attendance of the following Councillors at the conferences being held in 2026 which are the balance referred to in Item 14.10 of the 18 November 2025 Ordinary Council meeting [OCM 410/10] as follows:
 - (a) Institute of Public Engineering Australasia (IPWEA) NSW Local Roads Congress being held on 1 June 2026 at Parliament House Sydney : Mayor NC Westcott and appoint one Councillor: Cr _____.
 - (b) Australian Local Government Australia (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government being held on 23-25 June 2026 in Canberra: Appoint Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor and one Councillor: _____
 - (c) LGNSW Water Management Conference being held on 2-4 September 2026 in Ballina: Appoint Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor and one Councillor or two Councillors: Cr _____
 - (d) ALGA National Local Roads and Transport Congress to be held in November or December 2026: Appoint Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor and one Councillor or alternatively two Councillors: Cr _____
2. Approve reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses by Councillor delegates in attending the above conferences, in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy.

BACKGROUND

Parkes Shire Council ("Council") is committed to supporting the continued professional development of its Councillors and ensuring that they remain up to date with contemporary issues facing Council and the Parkes Shire community, as well as the NSW Local Government sector more broadly.

Attendance at sector conferences provides Councillors with new skills and knowledge on particular issues to ensure they can perform their duties and represent residents to the best of their ability. It also provides Councillors with the opportunity to network with elected representatives from other local government areas, as well as State and Federal parliamentarians, and advocate on issues of importance to the Parkes Shire community.

Clause 6.32 of the current *Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy* ("the Policy") provides that Council shall resolve to nominate:

- Three (3) Councillors, one of whom shall be the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor), to attend the Local Government NSW (“LGNSW”) Annual Conference; and
- One (1) Councillor with the Mayor or two (2) Councillors to attend each of the following conferences and seminars:
 - International Women’s Day (“IWD”) Conference
 - Australian Local Government Women’s Association (“ALGWA”) NSW Conference
 - LGNSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference
 - Institute of Public Engineering Australasia (“IPWEA”) NSW Local Roads Congress
 - Australian Local Government Association (“ALGA”) National General Assembly (“NGA”) of Local Government
 - LGNSW Water Management Conference
 - NSW Public Libraries Association Conference (“SWITCH”)
 - Local Government NSW Annual Conference
 - ALGA National Local Roads and Transport Congress

Determining Councillor attendance at various conferences at this time enables each Councillor to plan their professional development in advance and gives them the opportunity to indicate their interest in participating in conferences that are of interest to them and which they believe will best support their individual professional development needs. This practice also ensures that the annual Councillor Conferences and Seminars Budget are distributed equitably across all Councillors.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

At the meeting held on 18 November 2025 Council appointed a number of delegates to the 2026 sector conferences as detailed in the minutes [OCM 410/10]. This report considers the remaining conferences where no Councillor was selected to attend and seeks a nominee from the Councillors.

We also confirm that on 18 November 2025 Council resolved in the same minutes [OCM 410/10] that the voting delegates for 2026 were as follows:

- (a) Delegate the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor as voting Delegates at the ALGA National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government.
- (b) Delegate the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor as voting Delegates at the LGNSW Annual Conference and LGNSW General Election.

Details of the sector conferences scheduled to be held throughout 2026, including the dates and venues/locations of each conference, are outlined in *Table 1*, below, in order of when they will occur throughout the year.

Table 1: Local Government Sector Conferences 2026			
Conference	Date	Location	Delegate* (these may change throughout the year depending on Councillors availability)
International Women's Day	6 March 2026	Sydney	Cr Louise O’Leary & Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee
ALGWA State Conference	26-28 March 2026	Blacktown	Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee
LGNSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference	27-29 May 2026	Maitland	Cr Louise O’Leary and Cr Bill Jayet

Table 1: Local Government Sector Conferences 2026

Conference	Date	Location	Delegate* (these may change throughout the year depending on Councillors availability)
IPWEA NSW Local Roads Congress	1 June 2026	Parliament House Sydney	Mayor Neil Westcott
ALGA National General Assembly of Local Government	23-25 June 2026	National Convention Centre, Canberra, ACT	
ALGA National Local Roads, Transport & Infrastructure Congress	Late August 2026	Cairns	
LGNSW Water Management Conference	2-4 September 2026	Ballina	
NSW Public Libraries Association Conference	10-13 November 2026	Bathurst	Cr Bill Jayet
LGNSW Annual Conference	22-24 November 2026	Wollongong	Mayor Neil Westcott, Deputy Mayor Marg Applebee & Cr Bill Jayet

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

Councillor expenses, including costs associated with conference and seminar attendance, must comply with the *Guidelines for the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW* ("the Guidelines") issued by the Office of Local Government and prescribed under section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993* ("the Act"), as well as *Council's Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy* ("the Policy") adopted under sections 252 and 253 of the Act.

The Policy provides that attendance of Councillors at each conference shall be limited to one (1), except the LGNSW Annual Conference, which shall be limited to three (3) Councillors, including the Mayor. The principle of having one (1) Councillor attend is considered best practice for a rural council and consistent with community expectations.

Approval arrangements for Councillor attendance at conferences should occur, where possible, at a full meeting of the Council. This is reflected in clause 1.6.7 of the Guidelines as well as clause 6.32 of the Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Policy establishes an annual budget for Councillor attendance at conferences and seminars, which is reflected in Council's annual Operational Plan adopted each June.

Consistent with the Policy and Guidelines, Council will reimburse or pay registration fees, accommodation, meals, parking, telephone and travel expenses associated with attendance at the conference plus any other reasonable and directly related out-of-pocket expenses.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications for Council associated with this report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

15.5 ADOPTION OF COUNCIL POLICIES - CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is contemporary, effective and efficient.**Strategy:** Ensure compliance with statutory requirements and ensure Council's operations are supported by good corporate governance and effective risk management.**Author:** **Veronica Shaw, Business Support Officer****Authoriser:** **Anthony McGrath, Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy****Annexures:** **A. Council Policy - Code of Meeting Practice** [↓](#)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Adopt the Code of Meeting Practice included as *Annexure A* to this report.
2. Publish the adopted policies on Council's Website and intranet.

BACKGROUND

As part of Council's commitment to continuous improvement, all Council policies receive minor amendments from time to time as required and are on a review schedule to ensure that they comply with current legislation and local government best practice. In addition, the Office of Local Government (OLG) recommends that council's review all relevant policies in the first twelve months of office.

The following policy has been reviewed and is presented at *Annexure A* for Council's adoption:

- Council Policy – Code of Meeting Practice (*Annexure A*)

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

The method of development and amendments for consideration of the Council Policy appended at *Annexure A* is described below.

Code of Meeting Practice (*Annexure A*)

In response to a new Model Code of Meeting Practice released by the OLG in 2025, Council's Code of Meeting Practice was updated and adopted at Council's December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM 443/25). In January 2026, the OLG released several guidelines related to the new model code which have been included as Annexures to the updated Code of Meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

The key legislation and regulation for all council policies is the [Local Government Act 1993 No 30](#) and [Local Government \(General\) Regulation 2021](#).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Adoption and adherence to the attached reviewed policy ensures Council is compliant with Acts and Regulations.

Failure to adopt and adhere to the attached policy could result in serious consequences, including increased risk of damage to Council's reputation, and breaches of legislation that may lead to regulatory penalties or disciplinary action.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation was involved in the original update of the attached Code of Meeting Practice which was reported to Council in December 2025. As this amendment involves additional information and does not constitute material changes to the policy itself, additional community consultation was not required. However, the adopted policy will be placed on Council's website.

16 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY**16.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY - JANUARY 2026****IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.**Author:** Kristine Thacker, Business Support Officer**Authoriser:** Andrew Francis, Director Infrastructure and Sustainability**Annexures:** A. Major Projects Current Works - January 2026 [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Infrastructure and Sustainability Major Projects and Current Works Report for January 2026, appended at *Annexure A*.
-

BACKGROUND

A monthly status report of Major Projects and Current Works within Parkes Shire Council's Infrastructure and Strategic Futures directorate is tabled to keep Council abreast of projects being undertaken across the Parkes Shire.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

This report presents an update on the current major projects within the Parkes Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Infrastructure and Strategic Futures Department. The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month and is provided for the information of Councillors. The Major Projects and Current Works Report is appended at *Annexure A*.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects have been allocated funding either from grants or Council funds as provided in the 2025/2026 Operational Budget.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Project risk status is indicated by the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) indicators as shown against each project in the report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Each project may have its own requirements for community consultation or notification in relation to the delivery of the project works.

CONCLUSION

The Major Projects and Current Works Report, appended at *Annexure A*, provides Council with a briefing on major projects and works underway within the organisation's Infrastructure and Strategic Futures directorate. It is recommended that Council formally resolve to receive and note the report.

17 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

17.1 MAJOR PROJECTS AND CURRENT WORKS - OPERATIONS - JANUARY 2026

IP&R Linkage: **Pillar:** Leadership

Goal: Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.

Strategy: Effectively collaborate, engage, and communicate with our community to inform decision making and promote services, projects and initiatives.

Author: **Kristine Thacker, Business Support Officer**

Authoriser: **Logan Hignett, Director Operations**

Annexures: **A. Major Projects & Current Works - January 2026** [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the Operations Major Projects and Current Works Report for January 2026, appended at *Annexure A*.

BACKGROUND

A monthly status report of Major Projects and Current Works within Parkes Shire Council's Operations Department is tabled to keep Council abreast of projects being undertaken across the Parkes Shire.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

This report presents an update on the current major projects within the Parkes Shire being managed or undertaken by Council's Operations Department. The report outlines work that has been carried out over the past month and is provided for the information of Councillors.

The Major Projects and Current Works Report is appended at *Annexure A*.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects have been allocated funding either from grants or Council funds as provided in the 2025/2026 Operational Budget.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The Project risk status is indicated by the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) indicators as shown against each project in the report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Each project may have its own requirements for community consultation or notification in relation to the delivery of the project works.

CONCLUSION

The Major Projects and Current Works Report, appended at *Annexure A*, provides Council with a briefing on major projects and works underway within the organisation's Operations Department. It is recommended that Council formally resolve to receive and note the report.

**17.2 SAFER LOCAL ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM TRANCHE 3 -
COOKAMIDGERA AND LAKE ENDEAVOUR ROAD - SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME****IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Economy**Goal:** Our economy is supported by well-planned and safe transport infrastructure**Strategy:** Ensure local and regional roads are safe, well-constructed and maintained.**Author:** Sue McGrath, Business Support Coordinator**Authoriser:** Logan Hignett, Director Operations**Annexures:**
A. Attachment 1 - Cookamidgera Road Map 1 [↓](#)
B. Attachment 2 - Cookamidgera Road Map 2 [↓](#)
C. Attachment 3 - Lake Endeavour Road Concept plans [↓](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information within the report.
-

BACKGROUND

Parkes Shire Council submitted four applications under Tranche 3 of the Australian Government's Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP), seeking funding support for critical transport infrastructure upgrades across the Shire. The four projects are;

1. Stage 1 Western Entry Project
2. Warregal Road Upgrades
3. Cookamidgera Road Seal Extension
4. Lake Endeavour Road Sealing

By correspondence dated 6 February 2026, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts advised that two of Council's applications were successful.

These projects are the Seal Extension of Cookamidgera Road and the Seal of Lake Endeavour Road. Funding offers have subsequently been issued for both projects and require formal acceptance within 30 calendar days of issue.

The remaining applications for Warregal Road and Stage 1 of the Western Entry project were not successful under this tranche. However, the remaining applications are currently submitted in further tranches of this program, following feedback and strengthened submissions for consideration.

The successful outcome represents a significant external funding achievement for Council and materially advances long standing priorities within the Transport asset portfolio.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

This is the re-submission of grant projects under this funding program, and Council's first successful outcome. The scope of the projects has been outlined below.

Cookamidgera Road – Seal Extension

The approved scope for Cookamidgera Road involves the sealing of approximately 6.95 kilometres of road to complete a sealed link between Parkes and Cookamidgera.

The project is structured in three sections and includes pavement reconstruction where required, nominal granular overlays, widening to a 7–8 metre formation, and improvements to horizontal and vertical alignment to enhance safety and traffic efficiency. A large box culvert structure within the alignment is to be assessed and, if found substandard, replaced with a bridge structure

The total approved project cost is \$6,250,000, of which the Australian Government will contribute \$5,000,000, representing the maximum funding cap under the Program and equating to 80% of eligible project costs. The remaining \$1,250,000 is to be funded through co-contributions identified in Council's application.

Completion of this project will significantly improve network resilience, freight connectivity and all-weather accessibility between Parkes and Cookamidgera. The sealing of this link reduces ongoing gravel maintenance demands, improves safety outcomes for road users and supports agricultural and heavy vehicle movements within the region.

Lake Endeavour Road – Seal Upgrade

The Lake Endeavour Road project involves upgrading the existing unsealed gravel road to a 6.0 metre wide sealed two-lane standard

The scope includes a nominal 150mm granular overlay, sealing works, roadside safety improvements including guardrail installation where required, and advisory speed signage on sub-standard curves. Two existing causeways will be replaced with large box culverts and reinforced slab structures to improve flood resilience. Drainage improvements and driveway upgrades form part of the approved works to enhance safety and longevity of the pavement structure

The total approved project cost is \$4,318,470, with an Australian Government contribution of \$3,454,776, also at an 80% funding rate. The balance of \$863,694 is to be met through co-contributions identified in the application.

This project delivers significant safety and access improvements for residents and visitors, particularly during adverse weather events. Upgrading the road to sealed standard improves reliability, reduces maintenance intervention and strengthens emergency access capability and provides secure access to the facilities at Lake Endeavor complimenting the recently completed infrastructure upgrades.

Program Conditions and Delivery Obligations

Both projects are classified as "Design and Construct" projects under SLRIP and are subject to strict delivery timeframes

Design must be completed within 12 months of acceptance of the funding offer. Construction must commence within 24 months and be completed within 36 months of acceptance.

Funding is milestone-based and paid progressively upon achievement of defined milestones, including completion of pre-construction design, commencement of construction, completion of construction and acceptance of the post-completion report. Construction cannot commence until the Department has formally accepted Council's executed funding offer.

The funding offers also impose obligations relating to procurement processes, reporting, signage and publicity requirements, and formal approval of any variations to scope, budget or timeframes.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The combined total value of the two projects is \$10,568,470.

The Australian Government contribution totals \$8,454,776, representing a substantial external funding outcome for Council. The remaining co-contribution of \$2,113,694 must be funded from sources identified within Council's forward capital works program.

Funding under SLRIP is GST exempt and milestone based. Payments are made upon submission and acceptance of milestone claims supported by appropriate evidence.

Council bears responsibility for any cost overruns above the approved funding amount. Additional Commonwealth funding is not guaranteed and would require Ministerial discretion through a formal variation process. Careful cost management and detailed design validation will therefore be critical prior to construction commencement.

The projects represent significant leverage of Commonwealth funding into the local road network.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Construction market volatility presents exposure to cost escalation. As Council is responsible for any overruns, robust procurement strategy and early contractor engagement will be essential to manage budget certainty.

Variation risk also exists where scope adjustments may be required following detailed design investigations. All variations must be approved by the Department prior to implementation.

Operational risks will be mitigated through disciplined project governance, structured reporting and proactive engagement with the Department and relevant state agencies.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Formal community consultation is not required for acceptance of funding. However, community engagement will occur during detailed design and prior to commencement of construction, particularly where driveway adjustments, culvert replacements or alignment improvements may impact adjacent landowners.

Public communications and project signage will comply with SLRIP acknowledgement and publicity requirements.

18 REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**18.1 JANUARY 2026 BUILDING STATISTICS UPDATE****IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Environment**Goal:** Our built environment is functional, sustainable and meets the needs of our growing community.**Strategy:** Manage our built environment in line with the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and relevant legislation.**Author:** **Cordelia Moon, Development-Certificates Coordinator****Authoriser:** **Annalise Teale, Director Planning and Community Services****Annexures:** **Nil**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the January 2026 Building Statistics Report.
-

BACKGROUND

The Building Statistics Report is furnished to Council on a monthly basis and provides a snapshot of development activity in the Shire during that period.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

During the month of January 2026 there were six (6) Development Applications received totalling \$3,080,548.60 and four (4) consents were issued. There were no Complying Development Certificates received or issued.

The figures shown Table 1 below are for Development Applications received during January 2026 with respect to the specified building types and a comparison to the January 2025 figures.

Table 1: Development Applications				
Development Category	January 2026		January 2025	
	No.	Estimated Value	No.	Estimated Value
Commercial	-	-	-	-
Community Facilities	-	-	-	-
Industrial	-	-	1	\$258,914.00
Infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Tourist Development	1	\$40,000.00	1	\$1,281,556.10
Single Dwelling-house	-	-	1	\$110,000.00
Residential Alterations and Additions inc. ancillary / outbuildings	3	\$89,608.00	1	\$187,000.00
Residential Other	-	-	-	-
Multi-Residential	1	\$2,9180,00.00	-	-
Seniors Living	-	-	-	-
Subdivision only	-	-	-	-
Secondary Dwelling	-	-	1	\$653,858.00
Other inc. demolition, earthworks, advertising structure	1	\$32,940.60	-	-
Mixed Development	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	\$3,080,548.60	5	\$2,491,328.10
FYTD Totals	59	\$18,467,882.60	57	\$14,026,813.40

Table 2, below, lists the Development Consents that were issued in the month of January 2026.

Table 2: Development Consents		
Application No.	Address	Description
DA2025/0051	4 Close Street, PARKES NSW 2870	Alterations & Additions to Dwelling
DA2025/0087	13 Bloomfield Street, TRUNDLE NSW 2875	Erection of a New Structure - Shed
DA2025/0090	9-11 Bloomfield Street, TRUNDLE NSW 2875	Dwelling - Manufactured Home and Rainwater Tanks
DA2026/0001	32 Buchanan Place, PARKES NSW 2870	Erection of a New Structure - Shed

The figures shown in Table 3, below, are for Complying Development Certificates received during January 2026 with respect to the specified building types and a comparison to the January 2025 figures.

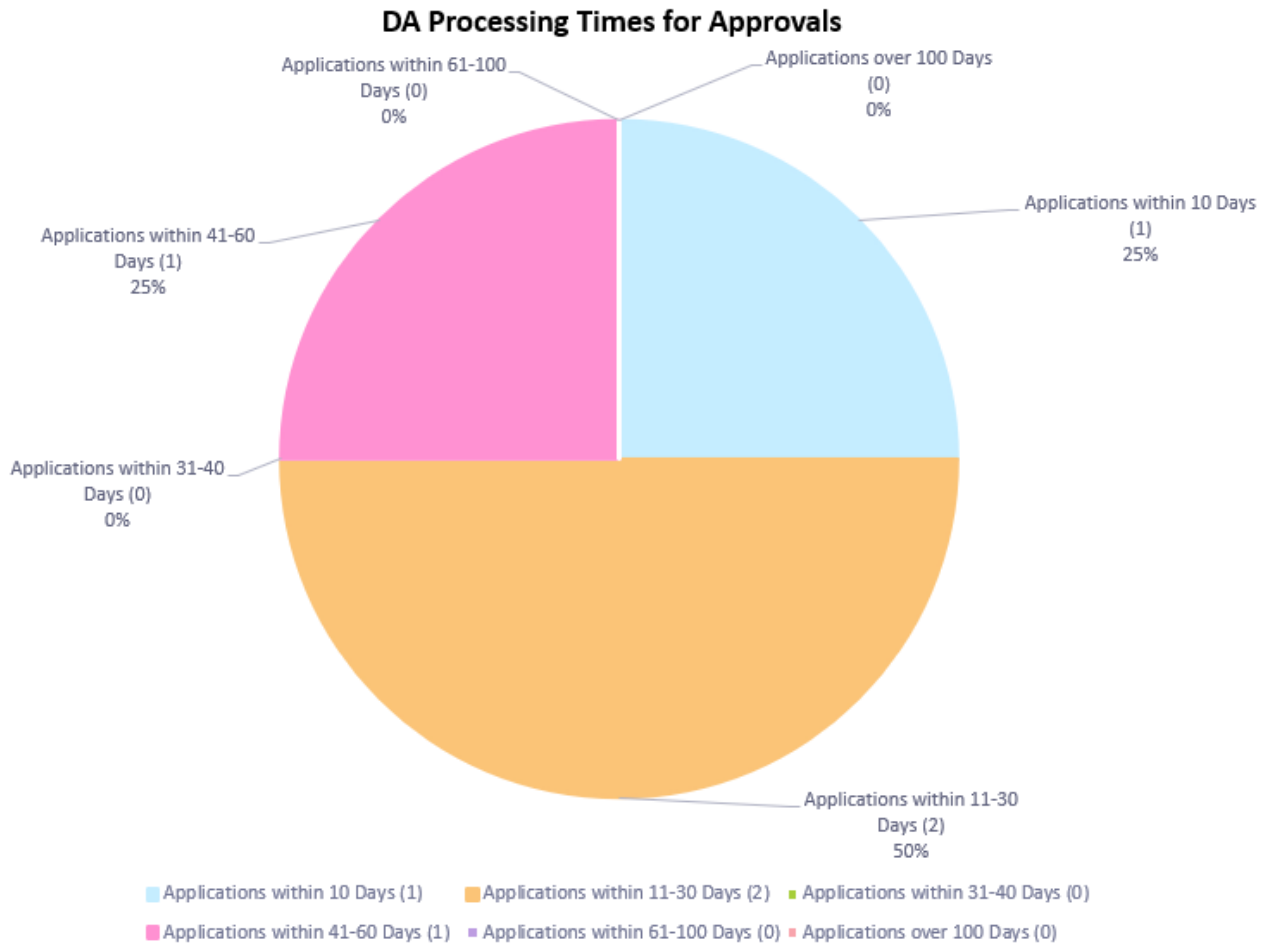
Table 3: Complying Development Certificates				
Development Category	January 2026		January 2025	
	No.	Estimated Value	No.	Estimated Value
Commercial	-	-	-	-
Community Facilities	-	-	-	-
Industrial	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure	-	-	-	-
Tourist Development	-	-	-	-
Single Dwelling-house	-	-	-	-
Residential Alterations and Additions inc. ancillary / outbuildings	-	-	-	-
Residential Other			-	-
Multi-Residential	-	-	-	-
Seniors Living	-	-	-	-
Subdivision only	-	-	-	-
Secondary Dwelling	-	-	-	-
Other inc. demolition, earthworks, advertising structure	-	-	-	-
Totals	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
FYTD Totals	12	\$8,973,196.90	2	\$97,031.09

Table 4, below, provides a list of Complying Development Certificates which were issued in the month of January 2026.

Table 4: Complying Development Certificates			
Application No.	Address	Description	Certifying Authority

DA Processing Times for Determinations

The information shown in the pie chart below is Development Application determinations issued for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 January 2026. It should be noted that a total of four (4) Development Applications have been determined with an average of 20.25 days.



Activation Precinct Certificate Determinations

There were no new Activation Precinct Certificate determinations.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications for Council associated with this report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Where a Development Application or Modification Development Application is required to be publicly exhibited, the application was made available for inspection at the Parkes Shire Council Administration Centre commencing from the date on which the public notice was placed in the local newspaper. The application was also included on the Parkes Shire Council website.

For Development Applications requiring neighbour notification, written notification of the proposed development was provided to the owner(s) of land immediately adjoining or adjacent to the subject land (as shown on Council's Property and Rating System at the time of notification) including land that is separated from the subject land by watercourse, road, pathway, driveway, railway or similar thoroughfare.

Where more than one person is listed as the owner, written notification to one of the owners, is taken to be a notice to all of the registered owners.

CONCLUSION

During the month of January 2026 there were six (6) Development Applications received totalling \$3,080,548.60 and four (4) consents were issued. There were no Complying Development Certificates received or issued.

Development Activity Report

January 2026

Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates lodged and approved in the Parkes Shire.



LODGED

6

Development Applications

0

Complying Development Certificates



DETERMINED

4

Development Applications

0

Complying Development Certificates

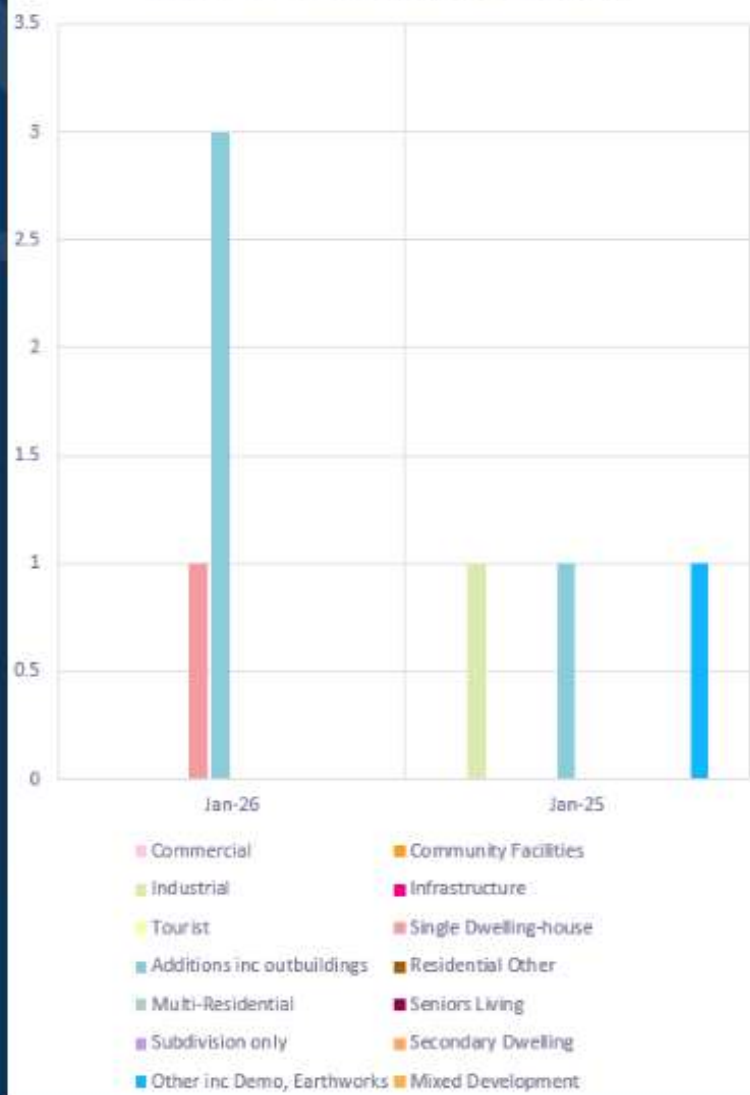
0

Private Certifier Complying Development Certificates



AVERAGE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME THIS MONTH
20.25

Approved Development Applications



VALUE OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
\$3,080,548.60

18.2 NSW STRATEGIC PLANNING REFORM - IMPACT ON PARKES SHIRE**IP&R Linkage:** Pillar: Leadership**Goal:** Our Local Government is open, accountable and representative.**Strategy:** Advocate and provide strong representation for our community at the regional, state, and federal levels.**Author:** Annalise Teale, Director Planning and Community Services**Authoriser:** Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager**Annexures:** Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Receive and note the information about the impact of the NSW Strategic Planning Reforms on Parkes Shire Council.
2. Make a submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure raising concerns for Parkes and Regional NSW as outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND

The NSW Government has released a major reform proposal for the State's strategic land use planning system through the "*A New Approach to Strategic Planning – Discussion Paper*" (December 2025). A central element of this reform is the creation of a simplified three-tier planning framework consisting of:

- A State Land Use Plan
- A reduced number of Regional Plans, including a proposal to consolidate all regional NSW into a single Regional NSW Plan
- Local planning frameworks delivering outcomes on the ground

This reform represents a fundamental shift in how planning is structured across regional NSW and has significant implications for Parkes Shire.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Under the proposal, existing regional planning areas (including Central West and Orana, Riverina Murray, Far West, North Coast, New England Northwest and others) would be replaced by **one unified Regional NSW Plan covering 84 Local Government Areas** (see map below)

This model is based on recognising:

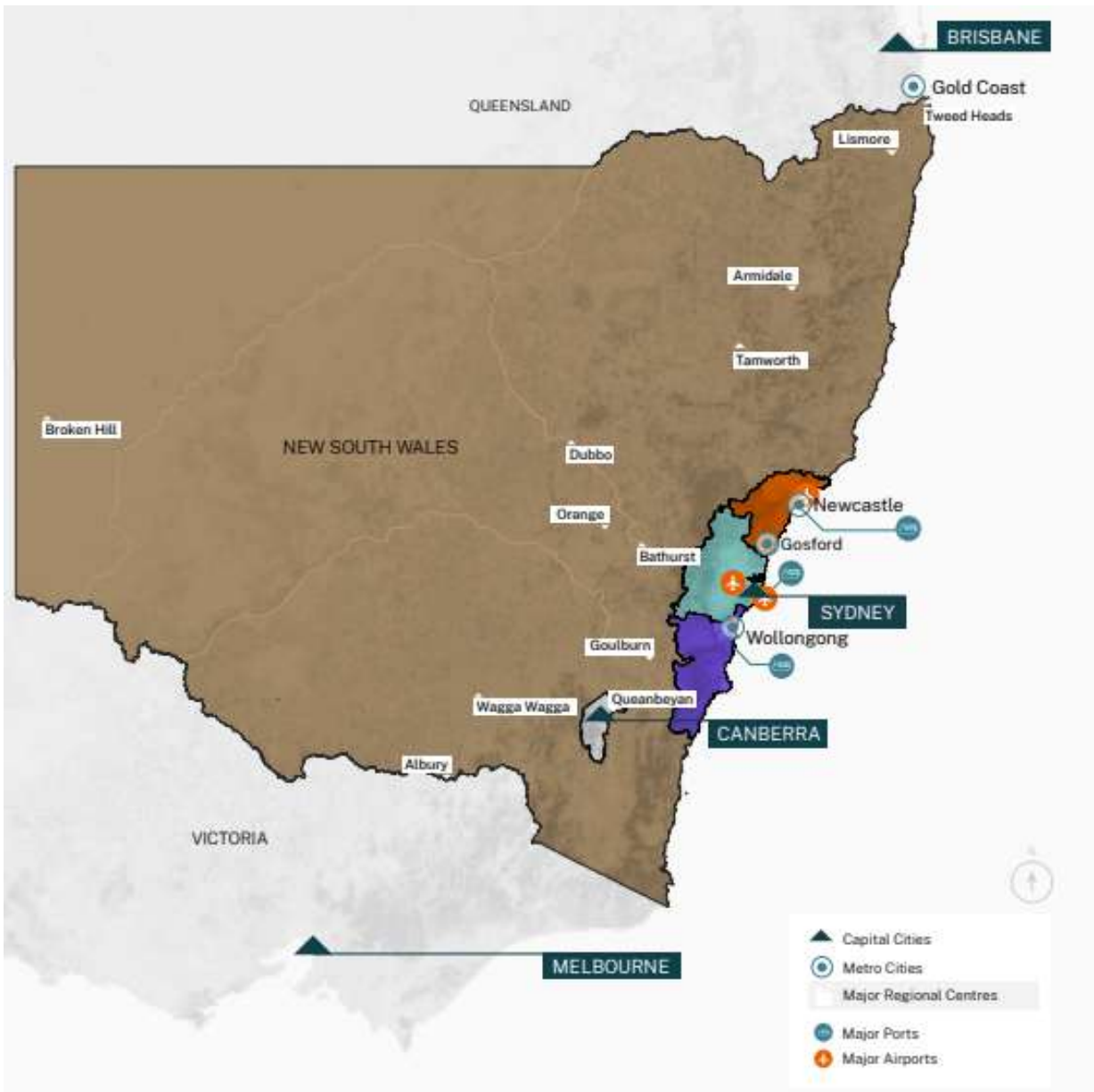
- Economic and freight networks
- Infrastructure corridors
- Energy transition zones
- Environmental systems
- Interconnected regional economies

rather than traditional administrative boundaries.

While this approach aims to improve coordination and long-term planning, it also creates risks for communities like Parkes. Bigger cities and regions with more political influence, larger populations and existing infrastructure are more likely to attract attention and funding, which means mid-sized but strategically important places like Parkes could struggle to be seen and prioritised within a single plan covering 84 councils. There is a real risk that local needs and priorities could be overlooked in a highly centralised system, with funding and decisions flowing mainly to larger regional centres instead of important freight and logistics hubs like Parkes.

For Parkes, this makes it essential that our role as a nationally important freight and logistics hub, Inland Rail city and regional service centre is clearly recognised and protected. Council will continue to advocate for fair investment, strong local representation, and decisions that reflect the needs, identity and future of our community under any new regional approach.

The diagram below shows the unified Regional NSW Plan covering 84 Local Government Areas along with the other three regions covering the Lower Hunter / Central Coast, Greater Sydney and the Illawarra / Shoalhaven.



Proposed Strategic
Region Plans

1 ■
Greater
Sydney

2 ■
Lower Hunter and
Central Coast

3 ■
Illawarra
Shoalhaven

4 ■
Regional
NSW

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

The Discussion Paper sets out a new proposed strategic land use planning framework for NSW. It proposes a three-tiered structure underpinned by statewide land use priorities for all strategic planning, focus on the following priorities:

- Aboriginal outcomes
- Housed
- Prosperous
- Connected
- Resilient
- Liveable
- Coordinated

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for Council associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

As discussed above.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The NSW Department Planning, Housing and Infrastructure are seeking feedback on the Discussion Paper until the 27 February 2026.

18.3 JACK SCOBLE SCHOLARSHIP 2026**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Community**Goal:** Our community is creative, proud and has a strong sense of belonging.**Strategy:** Build a rich local culture through access to cultural activities and events.**Author:** **Kerryn Jones, Manager Culture, Education and Library Services****Authoriser:** **Annalise Teale, Director Planning and Community Services****Annexures:** **Nil****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Notes the information on the 2026 Jack Scoble Scholarship

BACKGROUND

The late Mr Jack Scoble MBE OAM was Mayor of Parkes from 1966 to 1979 and died in 2003, providing a profound legacy of community involvement, civic pride, leadership and high personal values.

The education scholarship was established in 2006 and is offered on an annual basis to a student or students completing the higher school certificate at a school within the Parkes Shire and undertaking their first year of fulltime university studies. To be eligible for consideration applicants need to effectively demonstrate: entry into an approved academic course; academic merit, and benefit to the wider community from the studies undertaken.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Ten applications for the 2026 Jack Scoble Scholarship were received. Nominated representatives of the Community, Livability Access Committee, CR Bill Jayet, Jeffrey Evans, and Lyn McLeod shortlisted six applicants for interviews and interviews were conducted on Monday 2nd February 2026. The shortlisting and interview process assessed applicants on the students' academic merit, course of study and career plans, equity/financial circumstances, and their community and regional involvement.

The panel selected and recommended the following three applicants to receive the scholarship:

- Ellie Parker – studying a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Charles Sturt University
- Naomi Dunn – studying a Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctorate of Medicine at University of New England
- Lara Smith – studying a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at University of Technology, Sydney.

Each successful applicant will receive \$5,000 to support their transition into university studies. At the end of their first year of studies, they will submit a report to Council on how the scholarship supported them in their first year at university.

Below is a report submitted by Genevieve Bligh, the 2025 Jack Scoble Scholarship recipient.

The Jack Scoble Scholarship has been the key to an enjoyable and successful first year of university. Transitioning to university life brought many challenges — setting up a new home, adapting to an unfamiliar city, building new friendships, and starting my degree all at once. Amidst these changes, the scholarship proved an invaluable source of support, particularly during those stressful early months. Moving and living independently come with significant expenses, and ongoing costs like fuel, parking, and groceries add up quickly. The scholarship alleviated those pressures, allowing me to focus on what truly matters.

Having the support of the Jack Scoble Scholarship has lifted the mental burden of financial stress, allowing me to fully immerse myself in university life and dedicate my energy to both study and personal growth throughout the year. After my first semester I was able to achieve high distinctions in all my subjects and successfully completed the honours pathway option in chemistry. The scholarship has given me confidence to pursue my university goals and enabled me to make the most of every opportunity, both socially and academically.

One of the greatest blessings of the Jack Scoble Scholarship is the extra time and mental energy that comes from not having to balance work alongside study. This freedom has allowed me to actively serve with FOCUS, the Fellowship of Christian University Students on campus, several times a week — giving back to such a worthwhile community. I've also been able to attend nearly all my lectures in person, speak with lecturers to understand difficult topics, and take part in twice-weekly chemistry tutorials to strengthen my skills. Beyond university, I've even been able to take up running and make parkrun a weekly commitment, improving my physical wellbeing as well.

None of this would have been possible without the immense generosity of Parkes Shire Council and the Jack Scoble Scholarship. If you are heading to university, there is nothing I would recommend more than applying for this wonderful opportunity. Not only has it allowed me to thrive during my first year of university, but it has enabled me to achieve results in my courses that I never expected. If you are lucky enough to receive this scholarship, I encourage you to make the most of it and really dive into the opportunities that it allows. It has made my first year at university a wonderful experience, and I would encourage everyone to apply and give it their all.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has set aside \$15,000 in its annual budget to support the scholarship program.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no community consultation requirements for Council associated with this report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

That the recipient of the 2026 Jack Scoble Education Scholarship be congratulated. That all the applicants are applauded for their applications and future endeavours.

18.4 NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL 2026 IN THE PARKES SHIRE**IP&R Linkage:** **Pillar:** Community**Goal:** Our community is creative, proud and has a strong sense of belonging.**Strategy:** Support and deliver events, festivals and local celebrations that support community connectivity, citizenship and pride.**Author:** **Annalise Teale, Director Planning and Community Services****Authoriser:** **Kent Boyd PSM, General Manager****Annexures:** **A. 2026 NSW Seniors Festival in the Parkes Shire** [↓](#)**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Notes the information provided in the report.

BACKGROUND

The NSW Seniors' Festival is an annual state-wide celebration that honours the contributions of older residents and provides opportunities for connection, learning, wellbeing and fun.

Parkes Shire Council is delighted to announce a vibrant and inclusive line-up of grant funded activities in Parkes, Trundle, Tullamore, Bogan Gate and Peak Hill to celebrate NSW Seniors Festival 2026, running from Monday, 2 March to Sunday, 15 March 2026.

ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

Parkes Shire's Seniors Festival 2026 program has events across the Shire, including:

- Live Life in Colour Seniors Expo - bringing together service providers, community groups, volunteers and senior support services, alongside engaging guest speakers.
- Red-carpet screening of *Sunstruck* - a special screening of the 1972 film filmed in the Parkes region, with original cast members joining for a Q&A session.
- Library and wellbeing activities - from digital literacy and guided tours of the The Best of the Bald Archy Prize exhibition with morning tea, to portraiture and sewing bee workshops, wellness sessions and a live-stream of the Premier's Gala Concert at the Little Theatre.
- Living Library event - a unique opportunity for residents to share their lived experiences as "books" to be "borrowed," building empathy, understanding and connection across generations.

For full details and the complete program of events are available on Parkes Shire Council's website.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

There are no legislative or policy considerations for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council received a grant to deliver the event.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are no risks identified.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There are no community consultation requirements associated with this report.

19 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RECOMMENDATION

That Ordinary Council Meeting:

1. Moves into Closed Session to deal with the matters below, which are classified as confidential under section 10A(2) of *the Local Government Act 1993* for the reasons specified:

19.1 PARKES AQUATIC CENTRE - LAND MATTERS

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - c of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

19.2 TENDER EVALUATION - AKUNA ROAD AND NEW EUGOWRA ROAD PUMP STATIONS HIGH VOLTAGE PACKAGES

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

19.3 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COLDMIX ASPHALT (S2_2025)

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(ii) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council.

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

19.4 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONCRETE STORMWATER DRAINAGE PIPES (S3_2025)

This matter is considered to be confidential under Section 10A(2) - d(i) of the Local Government Act, and the Council is satisfied that discussion of this matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

Further it is considered that discussions of this matter in open Council would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it would prejudice Council's ability to secure the optimum outcome for the community.

-
2. Exclude the media and public from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified as confidential, pursuant to 10A(1), 10(2) and 10A(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
 3. Withhold reports and correspondence relevant to the subject business be withheld from the media and public as provided by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
 4. Make public resolutions made by the Council in Closed Session after the conclusion of the Closed Session, and record such resolutions in the minutes of the Council meeting.

BACKGROUND, ISSUES AND COMMENTARY

In accordance with section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council may close part of its meeting to deal with business of the following kind:

- (a) Personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).
- (b) Personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.
- (c) Information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
- (d) Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
 - (i) Prejudice the commercial position of a person who supplied it: or
 - (ii) Confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council;
 - (iii) Reveal a trade secret.
- (e) Information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.
- (f) Matters affecting the security of Council, Councillors, Council staff and Council property.
- (g) Advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege.
- (h) Information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.
- (i) Alleged contraventions of any Code of Conduct requirements applicable under section 440.

It is my opinion that the business listed in the recommendation is of a kind referred to in section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and, under the provisions of the Act and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, should be dealt with in a part of the meeting that is closed to members of the public and the media.

Pursuant to section 10A(4) of the Act and clauses 14.9–14.10 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, members of the public may make representations to the meeting immediately after the motion to close part of the meeting is moved and seconded, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

20 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with clauses 14.22 and 14.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the Chairperson as soon as practicable. Such resolutions must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.
